

Hafa Adai!

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7 persons fall in war against 'ice.' **PAGE 3**

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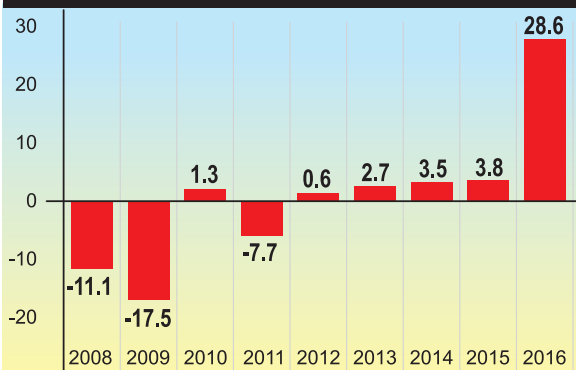
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Economy grew 28.6 pct. in 2016

CNMI Real GDP: Percent Change from Preceding Year
Economy grew by 28.6 percent in 2016



Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis
Graphic: Saipan Tribune Staff

The CNMI's real gross domestic product grew by 28.6 percent in 2016 after increasing 3.8 percent in 2015, according to Bureau of Economic Analysis, which presented its report yesterday at the Governor's Office.

» **Increase is largest in history by any US territory**

"For comparison, real GDP for the U.S. (excluding the territories) increased 1.5 percent in 2016. Guam increased by 0.4 percent, while American Samoa decreased by 2.5 percent," according to the BEA. BEA also noted that this is the largest increase of GDP by any U.S. territory since the agency started calculating GDP estimates for the ter-

See **ECONOMY** on **Page 4**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, chief of staff to the lieutenant governor John O. Gonzales, Department of Commerce Central Statistics director Justin Andrew, Bureau of Economic Analysis director Brien Moyer, PhD, CNMI SBDC administrator and acting Commerce secretary Nicole Babauta, acting governor Victor B. Hocog, BEA chief program coordinator Aya Hamano, BEA Territorial GDP economist Christina Battikha, press secretary Kevin Bautista, and Department of Commerce IT manager Tom Torres pose for a group photo after BEA presented its report yesterday at the Governor's Office.

CHCC hikes room and board rates

By **BEA CABRERA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. officially announced that it has updated its fees and charges for room and board. According to the CNMI Administrative Procedures Act, the adjustment has been pub-

lished and adopted and took effect as of Oct. 4, 2017.

In a press release given to media yesterday, CHCC informs all public and insurance providers, that the adjustment was necessary to keep up with the increasing costs of health-care services in the CNMI. The last

See **CHCC** on **Page 4**

Kilili eyes CNMI veterans center, calls for oversight on VA



Sablan

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The CNMI's delegate to U.S. Congress joined other representatives of U.S. Pacific territories in calling for an oversight on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

» **Says VA 'underserves' CNMI, Pacific insular veterans**

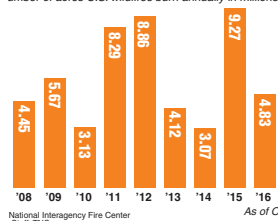
According to Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan's (Ind-MP) online newsletter, Sablan, along with American Samoa Delegate Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-AS), and Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU), made a formal request to House Committee on Veteran Affairs

See **KILILI** on **Page 4**

INSIDE

Wildfire acre consumption

Number of acres U.S. wildfires burn annually in millions



National Interagency Fire Center
Staff: TNS

NATION

With the winds dying down, fire officials said Sunday they have apparently "turned a corner" against the wildfires that have devastated California wine country and other parts of the state.

PAGE 15

ASIA

The two final surviving leaders of a deadly siege in the southern Philippines, including a top Asian terror suspect, were killed Monday.

PAGE 16

WORLD

The most powerful bomb blast ever witnessed in Somalia's capital killed 276 people with around 300 others injured.

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TAGA SPORTS OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2017 EDITION

Local

Torres discusses military activity, CW-1 concerns in DC

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres discussed with key decision-makers in Washington, D.C. several issues pertaining to the U.S. federal government and CNMI local government relationship last week.

According to an official update on Torres' almost month-long stay at the nation's capital, press secretary Kevin

Bautista told *Saipan Tribune* that Torres has been discussing military buildup activities on Tinian and Pagan as well as CW-1 visa concerns.

Bautista specified that Torres had a "constructive meeting" with Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment Lucian Niemeyer, which included details pertaining to the "continued discussions of the proposed mili-

tary buildup activities in the Marianas, specifically the CNMI Joint Military Training Exercises, or CJMT, on Tinian and Pagan."

Saipan Tribune attempted but failed to obtain information on CJMT discussions.

Bautista added that Torres later met with senior officials of the Department of Homeland Security, particularly officials at the United States Citizenship and Immigration

Services, with the purpose of continuing discussions on the CW program's need for extension beyond 2019.

"The governor is focusing on having the policy attention focused on a long-term solution to the workforce needs of our growing economy," said Bautista. "This includes stepping up our efforts in recruiting and training our local workforce, making sure our hospital will continue to have

the nurses it needs, and [making sure] our businesses will continue to have the workers they need."

The administration cited the U.S. Government Accountability Office's public debt outlook report on the five U.S. territories released last May 2017.

"... Guest workers are a vital part of our economy for both large and small businesses and the removal of all guest workers on CW-1 permits will have a drastically negative effect on our economy and our livelihood as a community," Bautista said.

GAO was referring to the

end of the CW-1 program, officially known as the CNMI Transitional Worker program, which has been in place since 2009. The program's first deadline was set in 2014, but was extended to this coming 2019. As of publication, U.S. Congress has yet to allow extensions for the CW-1 program, however Torres and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) both noted that an extension proposal is in the works.

Bautista added that Torres is scheduled to meet with the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment this week.

Defense rests in jury trial of 3 remaining defendants in alleged CW-1 scam case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The defense rested yesterday in the ongoing jury trial in federal court of the three remaining defendants in the alleged CW-1 scam case.

The defense rested after attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for defendant Md. Rafiqul Islam, called to the witness stand Wahedul Islam and lawyer Pamela Brown-Blackburn.

Wahedul Islam, 35, long-time friend of defendant Md. Rafiqul Islam, testified via video teleconference from Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Homeland Security Investigations special agent Michael Lansangan, who had already testified, was again called to the witness stand yesterday.

The two other defendants on trial are TBK Auto Cares owner David Trung Quoc Phan and Muksedur Rahman. Phan's fiancée, Analyn Nunez, and Rahman's wife, Shahinur Akter, were acquitted of all charges last Thursday.

The closing arguments will be today, Tuesday, at 8am.

After Lansangan, Wahedul Islam, and Brown completed their testimony, the defense announced they rest.

Berline, counsel for Islam, renewed his motion for mistrial, but U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge John C. Coughenour denied the motion.

Islam's motion for mistrial was sealed.

Berline and defense lawyers Robert T. Torres and Steven Pixley, counsel for defendants Md. Rafiqul Islam, Rahman and Phan, respectively, also renewed their motion for judgment of acquittal.

The judge denied it.

Wahedul Islam testified that defendant Md. Rafiqul Islam and Abu Bakkar Beg stayed at his house in Dhaka at the night when Beg's papers to work on Saipan were being processed.

Beg was among the five Bangladeshi workers who are the alleged victims in the case.

Wahedul Islam said he did not notice that Beg paid money to defendant Md. Rafiqul Islam.

He said he saw Belayet Hossain at the Simon Center in Dhaka, where visa documents are being processed, but he did not see Hossain making payments in large amount of money there.

Hossain is along among the five alleged victims in this case.


During cross-examination by assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto, Wahedul Islam said he spoke, through the phone, to defendant Md. Rafiqul Islam at Berline's office about two to three times.

In those conversations, Wahedul Islam said he came to know that there is a case against Rafiqul Islam.

Wahedul Islam said he told Rafiqul Islam that he has a desire to work on Saipan as a security guard or a salesperson.

In her brief testimony, attorney Brown-Blackburn said she is representing the five Bangladeshi workers who are victims in this case.

Brown-Blackburn said as part of her job as counsel at a non-profit organization she explained to her clients all the benefits that they would get in testifying and cooperating in the investigation in this case.



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7 persons fall in war against 'ice'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seven persons were arrested over the weekend on Saipan in separate operations jointly conducted by the Department of Public Safety-CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force in

line with war against methamphetamine or "ice." A total of \$650,000 bail was imposed on the suspects.

Arrested were Thomas Tudela Matsunaga, Anthony Sakisat Camacho, Emerita Camacho, Ronnie Malsol San Nicolas, Remedio Sablan Is-

lam, and two others.

Saipan Tribune withheld the names of the two others as their cases are apparently sealed.

All seven of them were taken yesterday before Superior Court associate judges Kenneth L. Govendo and Joseph N. Camacho for their initial appearance.

A total of \$125,000 bail was imposed on Matsunaga, who is facing two cases. Matsunaga, 52, is being charged with trafficking and possession of controlled substance in one case. He was charged with possession of controlled sub-

stance in the second case.

A \$100,000 cash bail was imposed each on Anthony Camacho, Emerita Camacho, San Nicolas, and two other defendants, who are all being charged with trafficking and possession of controlled substance.

A \$25,000 cash bail was imposed on the 50-year-old Islam, who is being charged with possession of controlled substance.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government in all cases.

In Matsunaga's case, DETF officers said a cooperating defendant managed to purchase \$170 worth of 0.8 gross grams of "ice" from the suspect near

Chalan Kanoa Beach Hotel last Aug. 31.

In the second case, a DETF officer said acting on a tip, police officers arrested Matsunaga and co-defendant 50-year-old Islam, who were allegedly caught smoking "ice" inside a car parked in front of Royal Poker in San Antonio last Sept. 20 at 6:21am.

Police said they recovered 0.3 gross grams of "ice" from the car.

Pertaining to Anthony S. Camacho's case, a DETF officer said a cooperating defendant was able to buy \$360 worth of 1.0 gross grams of "ice" from the 41-year-old defendant near Tanapag Cem-

etry last July 12.

In Emerita Camacho's case, DETF officers said the defendant served as an associate of a known "ice" trafficker during two buy-bust operations involving a total of 1.2 gross grams of "ice" worth \$540 in Susupe last Oct. 5 and 6.

With respect to San Nicolas' case, a DETF officer said a cooperating source purchased 0.5 gross grams of "ice" worth \$200 from the 23-year-old suspect during a buy-walk operation in Susupe last Oct. 6.

Saipan Tribune opted not to disclose information about the operations against the two other suspects as the cases against them are sealed.

Hillbroom arrested again in Palau on 'ice' trafficking charges

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The proceedings in Junior Larry Hillbroom's legal malpractice lawsuit before the U.S. District Court against his former lawyers may likely be affected again as Hillbroom was arrested anew last week in the Republic of Palau for allegedly trafficking methamphetamine or "ice."

Attorney Rachel A. Dimitruk, counsel for Hillbroom, notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday about Hillbroom's arrest after a new criminal case was filed against him in Palau.

The information, which was filed by the Palau Office of the Attorney General last Oct. 6, charged Hillbroom with two counts of trafficking a controlled substance.

According to the charges, Hillbroom did knowingly deliver or possess with intent to deliver methamphetamine on April 11 and May 9, 2017.

Each charge is a felony punishable by a sentence of not less than 25 years imprisonment, but not more than 50 years and a fine of not less than \$50,000 but not more than \$1 million, according to the charging document.

According to a court document, Hillbroom was taken before the Supreme Court of Palau Trial Division for his first appearance last Thursday, Oct. 12.

Hillbroom, who appeared with counsel William Ridpath, entered a not guilty plea to the charges. Assistant attorney general Evan Robbins appeared for the Palau government.

Associate Justice Lourdes F. Materne ordered bail for \$250,000 cash or \$500,000 surety.

A plea/trial setting conference will be on Oct. 27, 2017 at 9am in chambers.

According to news reports in Palau, Hillbroom was arrested last Wednesday, Oct. 11, by the country's drug enforcement operatives in the State of Peleliu on strength of an arrest warrant issued a day before.

According to court documents, the Narcotics Enforcement Agency was assigned to investigate a case involving suspected drug trafficking involving another person, but it

was Hillbroom who allegedly showed up and made an "ice" transaction with NEA's confidential informant last April 11.

Hillbroom allegedly made another "ice" transaction with the confidential informant last May 9.

The quantity of the "ice" involved in the two deals was not indicated in court documents.

The trial of Hillbroom in connection with his previous arrest in 2016 pertaining to "ice" trafficking case supposed to commence in January 2018.

Hillbroom was released from jail last August after serving a 60-day prison sentence in Palau for pleading guilty to an escape charge.

Last July, attorney Barry Israel expressed doubt how Hillbroom's lawsuit in federal court can proceed given Hillbroom's 60-day prison term and a pending drug case in the Republic of Palau.

Israel, through counsel, said the U.S. District Court for the NMI and the parties in Hillbroom's lawsuit are in no better position now to determine how the Palau's criminal cases will impede this civil case than they were at the last hearing on Feb. 21, 2017.

Hillbroom filed a legal malpractice in District Court against his former counsel, Israel and Guam lawyer David J. Lujan.

Asked for comments yesterday about last week's arrest of Hillbroom, attorney Mark Bradley Hanson said his law office will continue to assist Hillbroom in his legal malpractice lawsuit.

Early this year, Hillbroom pleaded guilty to a lesser included offense of escape in the second degree before the Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau Trial Division and was slapped with a 60-day prison term.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of the late business tycoon and DHL co-founder Larry Lee Hillbloom. He was recaptured in Palau hours after he escaped from police's custody on Feb. 9, 2016 just a few hours after he was arrested over the seizure of \$160,000 worth of methamphetamine or "ice."

Hillbroom's name is spelled differently from DHL co-founder Hillblom.

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Homeless Coalition to redo homeless count

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Homeless Coalition was not

able to submit a grant application as they had planned earlier this year resulting in the do over of the islands' homeless count.

Back in April of this year, the Homeless Coalition conducted a homeless count that netted 672 homeless individuals because it was a prerequi-

site to apply for the continuum of care grant, a grant that the coalition intended to use in order to carry out projects to assist the island's homeless.

Unfortunately, despite meeting the prerequisite, the coalition was not able to submit a grant application that was due last September resulting the coalition's initial plan dying out.

move past it and redo the count alongside all the other areas in the United States that have annually conducted this count for many years.

"... We did not have a chance to submit an application for the grant we said we were going to do but we are still moving on with the plan which is to do the count alongside everybody else in January," said Sablan.

This year, the coalition had started their count late due to the group's late formation. "We did it late because it was the first time and we were still in the planning phase," she said.

Sablan will be taking on the reins of the coalition's plans again just months after returning from a leave of absence due to medical reasons.

ECONOMY

From Page 1

ritories in 2002.

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog expressed that he and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres are very pleased with the latest estimates. Torres is currently in Washington, D.C. for a series of meetings.

"Governor Torres and I are very happy about the substantial growth in our GDP. This is not only an indicator of the effect of our gaming industry, but it is also a very significant indicator of our overall economic prosperity since we assumed office. It is important that we remain cognizant of the many problems we still face, while continuing to work together as a community to address them. Today is a good day for the Commonwealth," Hocog said.

In a statement, Torres said

before 2016, the economy had already been experiencing four consecutive years of economic growth since 2012.

"To go from where we were in 2009, when we saw the lowest GDP for the CNMI at -17.5 percent decrease to where we are now, in which we see a 28.6 percent increase in 2016, is truly a testament to a collective effort between the private sector, our government, and really our entire community. 2009 wasn't too long ago, and I know we all remember those days. Our tourism industry was struggling, large and small businesses were struggling, but more importantly, many of our friends and families were struggling to make ends meet. But now we see an economy that has provided more opportunities for everyone. If we continue to work together, our Commonwealth will achieve even greater suc-

cess," Torres added.

Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman called the significant growth of the CNMI economy "promising."

"This latest report from the BEA is a significant indicator of the success of this administration's economic policies. Sustaining this economic upswing takes all of us as a community to work together. I want to thank the governor and the lieutenant governor for their continued support and all the agencies that provided the data for the GDP report. I also want to thank our folks here in the Department of Commerce for what they do every day," Rabauliman said.

The report released today reflected widespread increases among the various factors of GDP. The largest contributor to the CNMI's economic growth in 2016 was the exports of services, which grew by 72.8 percent, compared

to a 14.9 percent increase in 2015. This can be translated to the growth in visitor spending through the tourism and gaming industries. Visitor arrivals grew over 10 percent, reflecting an increase in arrivals from South Korea and China.

Private fixed investment increased by 65.8 percent. Consumer spending increased by 3.0 percent reflecting the widespread growth in household purchases of goods and services.

For more information, please refer to the Bureau of Economic Analysis at: https://www.bea.gov/news-releases/general/terr/2017/CNMIGDP_101517.pdf.

For any questions of inquiries, contact the Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division at 664-3000/3077/3045 and email at director.csd@commerce.gov. mp. (PR)

CHCC

From Page 1

revision to charges for room and board at the Commonwealth Health Center dates back to 2012.

CHCC would also like to inform Medicare members that the new fees and rates are applicable unless the current Medicare rate is higher, in which case the current Medicare rates will apply. The adjustment was long coming since the last revision to charges for room and board at the CHCC was five years ago.

In an interview early this month, CHCC CEO Esther Muña disclosed to media that they have come up with ways to increase and strengthen revenue at the hospital.

First, the hospital tasked the nurses to document every patient care given to capture charges so it can be billed. Second, adjustment of Medicare and Medicaid so when the reimbursements come, CHCC will get the value of that cost at least to a higher level (looking at 50 percent increase in costs). Third, the hiring of a charge master to be in charge of revenue centers, and fourth; the aforementioned increase in room rates.

Saipan Tribune talked to random people to ask them about their thoughts on the recent adjustments of room and board at the hospital.

According to Layla Igiton of Tanapag, she doesn't see any problem with it. "If they are going to use money to buy new equipment for the pa-

tients and everyone here that need it, I don't see a problem about it. The only problem I see is if the money is coming from the patient's pocket unlike for people that have insurance and they are covered then it's fine."

"Now, if they are going to increase the room then they should also upgrade the quality of the rooms. Some patients don't have family watching over them while confined, so a television with basic channels would help them," she added.

A Saipan resident who wants to remain anonymous said, "That (increase) is ridiculous. Some people may have insurance but now they might get denied because of the increase. Some people don't even have insurance because it is expensive to pay for. It's sad for the people who cannot afford it. Even for people that are covered by insurance because however we look at it, it's an increase."

Arvin (surname withheld) of Capitol Hill supports the increase. "I think it is but normal. We recently just had an increase in wages so everything also went up. I believe the hospital needed it. As you can see, the government did not give much appropriation to CHCC when in fact millions were supposed to be given in our hospital. I saw that they only gave \$700,000. What is that? This is the only hospital in the CNMI. Health is important especially in a growing economy we have."

He added, "Right now, the population is increasing, many

tourists are coming in, of course there's going to be an influx of healthcare needs also."

Jessica Basa of Chalan Kanoa said she supports the increase. "If they are going to use the funds to buy new equipment and increase salary of nurses then patients will benefit from it because we will be well taken care of. The current nurses at the hospital deserve it as they take care of the patients very well and are very kind."

Neiligh Iguimar, 72, of Dan Dan said it's bad for the people who cannot afford it. "Personally, it's going to be hard for me to. I'm a retiree and my salary was very low.

I'm living to pension to pension every month.

"My saving grace is that I have my own insurance, Medicare, but how about the people who doesn't have it? We have plenty of low income here," she added

A resident of Garapan, who wants to remain anonymous, said casino taxes should pay for the needs of the hospital. "What the public healthcare should do is tax the casino. Use that money to fund the hospital. I don't know why it's so hard for them to make that decision. CHCC is a government hospital so the government should provide more to healthcare instead of less."

DESCRIPTION	OLD RATE	NEW RATE
Room and Board ICU, per day	\$2,550	\$4,000
Room and Board Nursery, per day	\$380	\$710
Room and Board NICU, per day	\$1,500	\$2,550
Room & Board Telemetry, per day	\$1,090	\$2,000
Room & Board Private, per day (ISOLATION ROOM)	\$2,100	\$2,550
Room & Board Semi-Private, per day	\$1,090	\$2,800
Delivery Room, per day	\$850	\$990
Observation Bed, Labor Room, NO Delivery, per day	\$250	\$500
Observation Services at L&D, NO Delivery, per day	\$250	\$500
Operating Room (15 MIN)	\$1,950	\$2,500
Anesthesia, per 15 min. increment	\$155	\$200
Recovery Room, 1st hour	\$200	\$300
Recovery Room, 15-min	\$110	\$200
Observation Bed, per hour	\$40	\$100
Embalming supplies	\$250	\$400
L&D Mid-level Professional Services, per hour, when not included with Obstetrical Care Charges (Private Attending Physician)	\$50	\$100

KILILI

From Page 1

chair Phil Roe (R-TN) and Ranking Member Tim Walz (D-MN) for an oversight hearing on the VA last week.

"Many of our veterans must travel off-island, sometimes at their own expense, to get the care they need. The oversight hearing that I am calling for, along with my colleagues [Radewagen] and [Bordallo] would help shine a spotlight on the unique challenges veterans in the islands face in accessing the services and benefits they have earned," said Sablan in a statement to *Saipan Tribune*.

According to the newsletter, Sablan said he wishes to use the hearing to remind the committee that the Marianas is the only U.S. jurisdiction without a VA medical facility, mental and physical health resources, or full-time medical staff.

"We also lack any full-time Veterans Benefits Administration staff to help veterans get their benefits. These are deficits that cannot be ignored," said Sablan, adding that veterans should be able to access the benefits they earned where they live.

Sablan said in a statement that the VA is currently recruiting a license clinical social worker to be based in the Marianas.

He added that his goals included establishing a fully staffed, fully equipped VA clinic in the Marianas; dedicated medical and mental health professionals; a Vet Center that provides transition assistance, counseling, outreach, and social service referrals for veterans and their families; permanent VA benefits staff servicing veterans on all three islands; and more staffing and supervision for the VA health office.

"At my request and with the support of Veterans and Military Affairs executive officer Oscar Torres, the VA recently conducted training for Commonwealth staff to assist veterans with their benefits claims," he said.

Sablan added that through the congressional office's outreach efforts and collaboration with the TriWest Health Alliance, they have tripled the number of community care providers available to veterans in the Marianas through the Veterans Choice Program.

According to Sablan, he is now in discussions with the Guam Vet Center to begin conducting outreach services and an assessment if there is a need to establish a similar Vet Center in the CNMI.

"... In July, the U.S. House approved funding for the VA to study the feasibility of establishing VA clinics in remote and underserved areas such as the Marianas," Sablan noted.

Currently, services available to veterans residing in the CNMI are limited to a VA contracted service from two physicians providing care through the VA Saipan Outreach Clinic. According to Sablan, the physicians have their own practices and are only able to visit the CNMI veterans on a part-time basis.

He also noted that the VA has only one administrative representative on-island that coordinates health care appointments for veterans on all three senatorial districts, but lack on-island staff to assist veterans with their compensation and other benefits claims.

Sablan noted that the VA sends representatives from Guam or Hawaii "every few months" to conduct outreach as well as claims counseling on Saipan, which he notes usually lasts a day.

New hotel developer seeks tax break

By BEA CABRERA

bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan International Group Ltd. is seeking a tax break by applying for a qualifying certificate authorized under the Investment Incentive Act of 2000 from the Commonwealth Development Authority.

The company is proposing to build a \$76.8-million hotel called Saipan Globe Hotel located in San Roque.

The application was expressed at a public hearing called by the CDA Board last Oct. 13 at the Pedro Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Based on the presentation made by SIG Ltd Project consultant Antonio Muna, the company is asking for about 20 percent tax break from the projected income that the CNMI will benefit for the first five years of business starting October 2018.

"The CNMI will benefit from direct taxes composed of hotel occupancy tax and payroll taxes that are projected to be worth \$17,500,108. The indirect tax benefits, composed of estimated BGRT from local vendors reporting sales and estimated BGRT revenues from guest purchase off-site are projected to be worth \$34,748,226 that sums up to \$52,248,334," said Muña.

"SIG Ltd is asking for a tax break from BGRT \$7,707,063, bar tax (bar revenue at 5 percent of F&B sales) \$201,216, income tax due \$354,356, and excise taxes during construction period of \$2,302,250 for a total of \$10,564,884," he added.

The development is a huge undertaking as the company plans to construct a 536-room resort made up of 438 hotel rooms and 98 villas. The project will use 4.1 hectares of beachfront property located in San Roque Village.

The main hotel will have guest rooms, restaurant/bar, retail, administration and services, five restaurants, swimming pool facilities, shopping mall, a 60-room staff housing facility, utilities plant, and 295 car parking spaces. The initial phase of the project will provide 175 jobs.

During the discussions, Muña said the company is asking for a tax break so a portion of the profits made by the hotel can be dedicated to paying debts put into the investment to start the project.

"The project cost of \$78.5 million, essentially, half of that will have to be borrowed. There will be an equity contribution of \$36 million from the owners, but half of it will still have to be

borrowed," he added.

A number of attendees at the public hearing were not in favor of the development and of the tax break. One of them was Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) who was vocal about his opposition to the application.

"This project (Saipan Globe Hotel), really doesn't bring anything into the Commonwealth. When the law came out it was a difficult time for the CNMI. [The] economy was hurting but we are thriving right now."

"There's a lot of momentum right now a lot of great things and we have a casino that is going to build by P.L. 18-56, a minimum of 2,000 rooms. So we are not hurting for more rooms but one thing we are hurting for is taxes. What we need is a new convention center, we have a hospital that is in dire straits as we don't have a CT scan, equipment are outdated and outmoded, and medical programs are not getting enough funds," said Propst.

"If we want to make the CNMI a better place we have to be very careful because we depend on taxes from hotels. We have long standing hotel that have been here for a long time. Hyatt Regency [Saipan], a highly named brand, does not have a qualifying certificate. They contributed so much and what about all the small businesses? Where are the small business incentives?" he added.

Tina Sablan, as a private citizen, voiced her concerns and offered to provide research that has been done in Hawaii and other places.

"They used to be extremely generous of very similar tax credit programs that has been discontinued as they were considered unsustainable and they erode the tax base that needed for things like the hospital, infrastructure, and public service that the community depends on."

"If you (CDA board) give this, it will be just fundamentally unfair to existing business as it creates an un-level playing field," said Sablan.

Glen Hunter said he supports the rejection of the qualifying certificate because with another hotel being built with 2,000 rooms, the shortage or accommodations on island is not a main concern.

"I don't support the application of the qualifying certification but that doesn't mean I don't support the business. I thank for Globe (SIG Ltd) for considering having a project here in the CNMI. I also don't find any offense that the company is asking for a tax break. The law exists and allows that request to be made. No ani-

mosity and no ill-will."

"But developers poses an impact on the environment, on infrastructure... they gotta be paid by someone and if not, the people will pay for it. If the CNMI has the capacity to grant tax breaks, why grant them to a completely new development. Grant them to the existing business that has been here for 10-15 years," he added.

According to CBA board chair Ignacio Perez, the writers of the Investment Incentive Act of 2000 was thinking of

economic multiplier at a time when the CNMI economy was down and hard.

"For every tourist that they (investors) bring in, they estimated \$340, maybe that's an old figure that a tourist would spend. Multiply that by five and that's how much they estimated economic growth back then," he said.

"In terms of assessing the application, we recommend the application to the governor based on the requirements fulfilled and investigation made. If all requirements are met, we

tell the governor this company is eligible. The timeline is pretty rigid as we have 90 days to assess and the governor has 45 days to sign," Perez added.

When asked by *Saipan Tribune* if the development will still continue if the application for tax break is not granted, SIG Ltd president Tom Liu said the development will push through.

"With or without the permit we will continue the project because the major reason why the developer is interested in building this hotel is due to the

shortage of rooms. With our business partner, Saipan Travel, we operate all six charters a week from China and that's on a daily basis we have three overlapping flights."

"So everyday on island there are 900 passengers that we service. That's why we wanted to have 536 rooms so that 450 rooms can be used by the 900 passengers we are servicing now plus additional flights that we can operate from various cities to bring in more tourists to Saipan," he added.

The public will be given a chance to give comments and views again at the CDA board meeting that is to be scheduled and announced.

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INVITATION



**SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

The State Rehabilitation Council and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, in partnership with San Diego State University Research Foundation's Interwork Institute (SDSURF-II), will be conducting their triennial Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment Project, with focus group meetings scheduled for October 24-27 in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The purpose of the Needs Assessment Project is to identify the rehabilitation needs of people with disabilities residing in the CNMI, and to assess the performance of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program in meeting those needs.

Employers comprise a new category, and dialogue with this group will center around their business needs and opportunities for inclusion and innovation.

Please join Dr. Chaz Compton, Ed.D., CRC in a lively conversation about diversity and disability employment. Thank you.

Focus Group Meeting Schedules by Groups

People with Disabilities

Saipan: October 24 & 25, 2017 (pick one), from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Multi-Purpose Center

Tinian: October 26, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Northern Marianas College

Rota: October 27, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Sinapolo Youth Center

Community Partners

Saipan: October 24 & 25, 2017 (pick one), from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Multi-Purpose Center

Tinian: October 26, 2017, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Northern Marianas College

Rota: October 27, 2017, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Sinapolo Youth Center

Employers

Saipan: October 24 & 25, 2017 (pick one), from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Center

Tinian: October 26, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Northern Marianas College

Rota: October 27, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Sinapolo Youth Center

Request for Reasonable Accommodations

If you require an accommodation to participate in a focus group meeting or you have any questions, please contact:

Elvira Seman (OVR) at 322-6537/38
no later than October 17, 2017.

Guam passes CNMI license exchange bill

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Guam Legislature in early October passed a bill that allowed certain CNMI license holders to exchange their licenses for a Guam license.

Guam acting governor Ray Tenorio at the time signed Guam Bill 123-34, which allowed CNMI residents that are U.S. citizens holding a valid CNMI driver's license for at least a year to exchange their licenses for a Guam driver's license.

According to the bill, authored by Guam Senator William S. Castro, the measure intends to benefit students,

people conducting business on Guam, armed service members from the CNMI, CNMI residents travelling for medical purposes, or any others whose stay on Guam would extend beyond 30 days.

"This bill makes sense. It eases the transition for students or workers between the islands of the Marianas," Tenorio reportedly said in a statement to Guam media outlets. "I am glad I can be a part of this effort to help our brothers and sisters as they seek economic and educational opportunity."

The CNMI now joins the ranks of other 25 U.S. states,

including individuals within the armed forces, in a reciprocity agreement that allows for the exchange of drivers licenses that are valid in Guam.

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco's (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-91, a bill that provides the same benefits for U.S. citizens residing on Guam, has yet to be acted on. Currently, CNMI law states that foreign licenses, Guam licenses included, are valid on the CNMI for only one month.

"This is intended to reduce, if not absolutely remove those artificial barriers that separate our two jurisdictions, our one great Chamorro nation," Guam bill author Castro said in a statement

Apatang suggests amendments to proposed bicycle lane bill

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office is in support of the establishment of bicycle lanes with the consideration of a few suggestions.

Rep. Donald Barcinas (R-Saipan) proposed House Bill 20-97 that requires project owners to include design and construction costs for bicycle lanes into road construction projects.

According to Apatang's public comments, he is in support of this proposal because it ensures safety for community member and it also promotes healthy living.

"It is a good way to ensure that members of our municipality have safe bicycle lanes to promote an active and

healthy lifestyle," Apatang's comments stated.

The Saipan Mayor's Office believes that in providing the community with a safe pathway and bicycle lane, it increases the efforts in decreasing the rate of health related problems like diabetes and heart disease.

"A municipality that promotes a healthy lifestyle by offering its residents facilities and infrastructures to keep them physically active is a municipality that will axiomatically spend less in healthcare and have a longer lifespan," Apatang's comments read.

The mayor's office suggests that the local delegation prioritizes the construction of concrete curbs and sidewalks along Beach Road

and Chalan Pale Arnold first for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

"Dust, gravel, and rocks kicked up by vehicles end up on the asphalt surface of Beach Road and create an unsafe driving surface for motorists and most especially bicyclists and pedestrians," the comments said.

The Saipan Mayor's Office also suggests that the proposed bill should include general requirements on bicycle lanes' width and length that a project owner must pay for.

Apatang is in full support of the bill but requests that the suggestions raised by his office are considered.

"The bill is good but we recommend amending it to consider the concerns we raised," he said.

SIS student shows interest in restoring Japanese war tanks

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A student is seeking help from the Saipan municipal government in his attempt to restore most of the Japanese tanks on island to its former glory as they were seen before the war.

Saipan International School sophomore R.J. Pierce visited Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang recently with a request to support him in his mission although not financially or even with the manpower, but by word of mouth.

According to Pierce, as a young individual with such big plans, community members tend to doubt his capabilities and whether he will pull through with his plans or not. With Apatang openly stating that he will support Pierce's project, it could po-

tentially encourage others to support the project, too.

Pierce is determined to restore a couple of the tanks that are currently rusting away like the Japanese tank displayed along Beach Road and the tank gun located near the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

Pierce said that his inspiration for this project stems from his love for history and the history behind his Japanese heritage. He told the media that he is also a part of the Kuentai group that visits the island regularly with the mission to repatriate the remains of all the Japanese soldiers who died during World War II.

Pierce has been working on gathering resources for this project. He has also requested help from others that have shown interest in his projects. One of Pierce's

stops was Apatang and according to the mayor, he is more than happy to help with the project in any way he and his office can.

Apatang said this is the first time that anyone in general has ever shown interest in restoring the tanks. He is ecstatic that a high school student has not only shown interest but is taking initiative to get the project going.

Pierce told the media that he is still gathering his group. He is currently still struggling to convince people to join in his beautification project, but he hopes with the municipal government supporting him, it will be a matter of time before individuals start joining his task force and he can finally carry out his goal to completely restore the Japanese tanks that are scattered across the island.



**CNMI DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE**



CDA COMMONWEALTH
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

FREE Small Business Development Workshops

MARKETING ON A BUDGET

Thursday, October 19th, 2017

8:30am—10:00am

Location:

CDA Board Room, 1st Floor, San Jose

Presented by:

Donna Krum,

Friends First Marketing, Inc.



Donna Krum is the President of Friends First Marketing, Inc. The company's expertise is in bringing new patients to the dental community, and is also the Plan Administrator for The Island Smiles Discount Dental Plan. Upon meeting her dentist husband, Nelson, she left the insurance world and learned everything she could about managing and marketing for dental practices. In her Regional Marketing position with a national dental management company, she was recognized nationally for her marketing skills and putting "butts in the seat" to grow dental practices. Because of her involvement with the Chamber, one of her offices became the first \$1,000,000 dental practice in the region.

In addition to being a Chamber Board member, Donna is also the Co-leader of the Saipan Compassionate Friends group, Secretary of the NMI Soroptimist Group, and serves as the co-chair of the Chamber's Small Business Committee. She is also an active mentor for the Chamber's Saipan Young Professionals.

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Huang Shun Corp. to pay \$25K for failure to comply

Through a Stipulated Resolution and Final Judgment in the matter of Huang Shun Corp. for failure to comply with Coastal Resources Management permitting conditions, HSC is required to pay \$25,000 in damages related to its unpermitted development in the wetland area behind Sunshine Hotel in Susupe.

According to DCRM acting director Janice Castro, the final resolution has been made with HSC agreeing to the terms in the final judgment.

"BECQ had given ample time for HSC to comply with

all its violations against the conditions set forth in their CRM permit. We've finally come to a resolution, but we remind the general public and businesses that the conditions we impose on various permits are meant to safeguard our environment and community, so they must be followed," Castro said.

The agreement notes that along with the \$25,000 payment, the construction of a Rain Garden of which Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality will oversee, the rehabilitation and restoration of the

wetlands area, removal of all debris, removal of structures, solvent, and illegal pesticide disposal will be adhered to.

BECQ administrator Eli Cabrera expressed that the matter is being resolved amicably for the benefit of both parties involved.

"I am pleased that we have reached a resolution but it is important to emphasize that any and all violations harm our environment and can potentially ruin their future use. The site visits conducted by our personnel help prevent these issues and we continue to ad-

vocate and enforce water quality standards and environmental safeguards," Cabrera said.

The violations were found on Dec. 3, 2014 after a site visit was conducted by BECQ personnel. After follow-up inspections, an increasing piling of trash in addition to construction waste was found in the wetland areas along with the formation of an open cesspool.

The community is encouraged to report CRM violations through the Reef Report application on www.crm.gov.mp or by contacting DCRM at 664-8315. (PR)

Sengebau Poetry Competition tonight

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council cordially invites the public to the 14th Annual Valentine Sengebau Poetry Competition that will be held tonight, Oct. 17, at the Visitors Center Theater, American Memorial Park beginning at 6pm.

Representatives from 10 CNMI schools, including schools from Rota and Tinian, will be competing in two divisions: junior and senior.

The junior division includes junior high and middle school participants who must recite a poem of their choice from Sengebau's poetry compendium "Microchild." Poets will give a three-minute introduction explaining why they chose that specific poem.

Under the senior division, high school contestants submit their original poems in any form with a maximum length of 250 words. Poems must address themes relating to culture, identity, and/or change in the CNMI.

A panel of judges, includ-

ing Jacqueline Chie, Hedwig Hofschneider, and Catherine Perry Harris, will score submitted poems for content prior to the event.

For both divisions, recitals will be scored by a second panel of judges at the event. Recital judges include Frances M. Sablan, Gloriana Teuira, and Hedwig Hofschneider. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the competition.

First place finishers in each division will have their names and school names inscribed on perpetual trophies that will be housed at the winning schools until next year's competition.

Cash prizes will also be awarded. First place will get \$250; second place, \$150; and third place \$100.

This competition is intended to increase literary capabilities among students and by promoting lifelong learning in the humanities.

For more information, contact council staff at 235-4785. (PR)

Brilliant Star 'Dragonflies' conduct beach cleanup



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Brilliant Star School's Primary Class "Dragonflies" students pose for a photo after their beach cleanup at the Old Man By the Sea last Oct. 9.

Brilliant Star School's Primary Class "Dragonflies" hiked to Old Man by the Sea for a beach cleanup last Oct. 9.

Of course adventure was on the mind of all the students but the mission was born out of concern for the alarming

amount of litter on the beach. The cleanup was instigated by 5-year-old Kanoa Owens, who a few weeks before after seeing all the trash on a hike there, simply said "we should do a cleanup of the beach." The idea was embraced by all the kids and

their families, and friends and the cleanup was a huge success.

"All of the children took the initiative to get the beach clean and learned about environmental stewardship and responsibility. Themes like 'hike out what you hike in'

and 'leave it cleaner than you found it' were mantras the students learned during their productive adventure," said their teacher Bill Owens.

At least 16 bags of trash were collected by the "Dragonflies." (PR)

1 dead, 1 alive, 2 missing after Pacific Ocean boat incident

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The U.S. Coast Guard is searching for two of four people who were on a boat that didn't show up on schedule to the Federated States of Micronesia.

The Pacific Daily News reports that two people were found on Sunday floating in a debris field. The Coast Guard states one of those two people was still alive.

The survivor told rescuers that the two people still

missing used gas cans as flotation devices to swim away from the boat.

The identity of the person found dead is being withheld as authorities work to notify family.

The search began on Friday and the Coast Guard is continuing efforts Sunday night to look for the others.

The boat left Chuuk State last Wednesday for an 80-mile (129-kilometer) trip to the Hall Islands.



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/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S



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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 12:00noon** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board's office located at #1242 Pohnpei Ct., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (09/07/17)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
 - A. Quarterly Declaration Report from Physician License #541
 - B. Letter from Physician License #541
- VII. Director's Report
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business:
- XI. New Business:
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New Applications:
 - B. Renewal Applications:
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
 - A. Complaint #17-01 (Detailed complaint regarding Paradise Dental Center)
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

MVA attends PATA Travel Mart 2017

The Marianas Visitors Authority recently promoted the Marianas at the Pacific Asia Travel Association Travel Mart 2017 in Macau, China. The goal of the travel mart held Sept. 13-15, 2017, was to allow one-on-one business appointments between hundreds of tourism and travel buyers and sellers.

PATA Travel Mart is a premier travel trade show featuring

24 establishments get 'A' from BEH

The Bureau of Environmental Health conducted sanitary inspections, during the month of September 2017 on the following retail, eating, and drinking establishments and their grades are as follows:

Grade "A"

1. Blue Sky Supermarket, Chalan Piao (butcher facility)
2. NIC Health, Garapan (retail, wholesale)
3. Piggy House Restaurant
4. Mobile Station, "JP Wold" (Koblerville, Garapan fuel stations)
5. Alberto's BBQ Stand, Chalan Kanoa
6. My Space Restaurant, Garapan
7. Eucon Mart, Gualo Rai
8. Coffee & Bar Sand, 2 and 3, Garapan
9. Jang Gun Restaurant, Garapan
10. 747 Dining, Garapan (Restaurant Bar)
11. Kanoa Resort, Susupe (Isla Café & Bar, Isla Terrace Bar, Napu Lounge, Seaside Hall, Latte Hall, Barefoot Restaurant, employees Cafeteria)
12. New Kagman Market, Kagman (retail, butcher facility)
13. Tudela Enterprises, San Vicente
14. Welcome Supermarket Retail, San Roque
15. MJ Kitchenette, Garapan
16. Welcome Super Market Butcher, San Roque
17. Island Restaurant, Garapan
18. I Shop Saipan, Susupe
19. I Love Saipan 102 (Hyatt), Garapan
20. LC Market, Gualo Rai (retail, butcher facility)
21. JC Marketing Wholesale, Gualo Rai
22. Marianas Baptist Academy School, Dandan
23. Day Star Fish Mart, (Chalan Lau Lau)
24. Mura Ichiban Restaurant, Garapan

BEH, meanwhile, ordered the closure of Oriental Dumping Restaurant, Chalan Lau-lau last Feb. 22, 2017 for serious violations of health and sanitation standards. (BEH)



Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres, second from right, joins representatives of Guam Visitors Bureau and Palau Visitors Bureau at the Pacific Asia Travel Association Travel Mart 2017 on Sept. 13-15, 2017, in Macau.

ing unparalleled networking and contracting opportunities to help travel and tourism organizations access decision makers, meet new clients, expand their networks, establish new relationships, and consolidate existing business partnerships. Most of these buyers at the event were looking for new destinations for their clients.

During pre-arranged meet-

ings, MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres presented the Northern Marianas as a new destination to the Asian region and as a long-haul destination to the European markets.

"It's been several years since MVA has had the resources to attend PATA Travel Mart, but this year we were able to highlight the NMI during our one-on-one sessions

by presenting our destination, location, offerings, and other essential information," said Torres. "We answered their questions and exchanged contact information that our MVA members can use to introduce local products and services."

The Marianas joined Guam and Palau at a designated pavilion to cooperatively promote the Micronesia destination. (MVA)



Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres meets with prospective buyers at the Pacific Asia Travel Association Travel Mart 2017 on Sept. 13-15, 2017, in Macau.

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Instrument Sciences
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Trump's one-two punch on the Obamacare exchanges will injure consumers—and taxpayers

After delivering yet another malicious blow to the Affordable Care Act, President Donald Trump took to Twitter (of course) on Friday to tell Democrats that they “should call me to fix” the law he’s sabotaging.

It sounded like the sort of thing you’d hear in a mobster movie: “Nice insurance business you’ve got here. I’d sure hate to see anything bad happen to it.”

The fact is, a handful of Republicans and Democrats have been trying to work out a compromise on how to address the most problematic aspect of the ACA: the state exchanges where private insurers sell policies to people not covered by group health plans. Competition has been dwindling and premiums rising fast in a number of states, particularly in less populous counties.

But even if Trump actually agrees to negotiate, there seems little chance of a deal. He and many other Republicans envision a health care system that’s fundamentally different from the one enshrined by Democrats in the ACA. Instead of having Americans share health risks and costs broadly, with the healthy picking up some of the insurance tab for the ill and injured, the president and congressional Republicans want to let people avoid the costs imposed by others with risks or maladies they don’t share.

We tried the latter approach before, and it left tens of millions of people uninsured while saddling sicker Americans with double-digit premium increases and steadily growing deductibles throughout the early 2000s. The ACA moved the country away from that unworkable system—until Thursday, when Trump took two steps to push the country back in that old, failed direction.

The first was an executive order calling on federal agencies to help the roughly 20 million people not covered by large group plans shop outside the state exchanges for policies that aren’t governed by the ACA’s insurance requirements. The new rules and guidelines, which will take months to develop, aim to promote thinner policies that cover fewer risks but carry lower premiums. That trade-off would be especially appealing to younger, healthier consumers who don’t see the need for comprehensive insurance.

Encouraging people to leave the exchanges, though, defeats the main purpose of these marketplaces: to create big regional risk pools to hold down premiums by spreading health care costs broadly. And the likely consequence is that the state exchanges will be left serving only those people who do need comprehensive coverage—those in dangerous lines of work or with pre-existing conditions that might be

See **TRUMP’S** on next page

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY “PEPE BATBON” CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

CATULLUS WON'T DULL US

“Odi et Amo, I hate and love the ignorant fish who even wants the fly while writhing.”— *Catullus* (84-54 B.C.)

*Bigly fish in a huuge bigly pond
sharp hooks and gaffes overlooked
waves a golf club for a magic wand
doesn't know his goose is cooked
ignorant fish in troubled waters
Chinese say that's the time to catch
troubling fish his sons and daughters
and 17 lawyers starting to kvetch
can't tear himself away from the mirror
“only I can do it” he continues to think
generals try to have him see clearer
voters begin smelling the big stink
wanted a deal on that Russian tower
while he was running for election
Mueller continues close inspection
getting closer to the truth by the hour
Catullus' fish wanting fly and writhing
45's tax plan has few wealthy tithing.*

TRUMPTY'S DC DUMP GOES NATIONWIDE

*In DC Trumpty Dumpty did a divisive dump
where the peaceful Potomac river runs through
on a Congress led and misled by a hapless few
broken bad bills in need of a Senate sump pump
so with alt right media ready to divide and pounce
while liberal talk shows blah blah and do their part
newspapers squeeze pounds of flesh ounce by ounce
as Bannon squeals like a blind pig from Breitbart
Mueller digs up dirt not perturbed in the ‘dump’
partisan propaganda machines continue in cyber space
as both sides run around frantically like Forrest Gump*

*Russian trolls buy media ads to target opponents race
shadows of the Capitol Dome cast gloom everywhere
from west San Diego, Denver, Dallas, to east Delaware.*

BELLING THE BIGLY CAT

“To argue or refute wise counselors abound, the man to execute is harder to be found” – 17th c. French fabulist, Jean De la Fontaine (1621-1695)

*So among the investigators who will bell the Bigly cat
in old politics days it was Do Nothings with big cigars
it will take a serious legal swamp rat to accomplish that
perhaps from the inside three generals with many stars
who will stop the daily insults and constant name calling
the Goldman Sachs cabinet rats see Bigly cat's tweets
filled with meaningless content embarrassing appalling
mumbling words under their breath we won't repeat
his base loved the moronic screech speech at the UN
Capitol Hill fat rats are tired of the pace of the chase
bellicose invective unheard since Kruschev back when
Congressional rats begin worry about the 2018 race
so around Bigly cat's neck who will hang the bell
there are so many investigations its still hard to tell.*

SENRYU ONE LINERS FOR POLITICAL DINERS

*Leader losing mind needs common sense school, logic blind
policy by tweets, baby building blocks, school of hard knocks
generals gradually gaining ground good governance generated
telling new false tales of Trumpty Dumpty all the King's men
crystal ball gazing dumb deals antagonistic regulation razing
TV networks echo resists, a nation sees nearsighted narcissist
north to south Kim Young Dumb speaks diarrhea of the mouth
his moves mean the whole world to me, Pacific island home
under toxic hair dye neural networks fry, Trumpty's dwindling
Potomac pressure, a river of lies rise, needs to cease and desist
election in depth as Soviet subterfuge entropy swallows all
exploring insanity and inanity first year of Trumpty in office.
from the minute he wakes up he's drinking from a bitter cup
the moment he tweets the world's collective heart retreats.*

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

In Hollywood, delving is not our thing

You go from dreary Parsons Boulevard in Queens to Hollywood movie mogul but can't feel your life. What do you do? You have such pretty people begging for a taste of your dreams but feel nothing. What do you do? In a sausage-factory city, you produce works of art but feel worse than ever. What do you do? You can manipulate the entertainment capital of the world into Oscar after Oscar until you feel like God but even that's nothing. What do you do?

In Hollywood, the answer is: Don't ask.

It would be nice if open secrets about Hollywood's many sociopathic, perverse beasts raised a "How did we let this happen?" kind of question, but sorry, delving is not our thing. Our business takes place under office headsets, over acoustically dangerous restaurant tables, and we just want to—need to—be in the know enough to say, "Oh my God," make the most convenient joke and then whisper the open secret to someone else. Our electrical contractors and insurance agents need to know too.

It would be nice if blatantly deviant behavior goosed us into coughing up some hairball of human reflection. Maybe a slightly miffed "Why?" But no, no, no—we don't chase epiphanies down Burton Way. The open secret itself is all the epiphany we need, thank you.

It would be nice if we recognized our own complicity in monstrous conduct but really, a perfect rationalization is just sitting there: With so many open secrets hanging around, we've built up an immunity. ("Really? He's a predatory deviant too? Anyway, yeah, they're bringing back 'Roseanne.'")

Right up there with movies, TV shows and music, dirt is one more product of the entertainment industry, and everyone's a consumer. Even your electrical contractor and insurance agent. But especially us.

It would be nice if we indicted ourselves in our crimes against humanity but—well, let's take a shot at that one.

Years ago, at an industry screening, I heard a rumor about the very subject of our current (exploded) open secret. Let's just say it was horrible and explicit and wolfish but was conveyed in a perfectly matter-of-fact tone.

"Oh," I said.

The movie was really great and at dinner the next night, I told a lot of friends they shouldn't wait for the DVD. "Go see it at a really big theater. It's what movies should be. And by the way, I heard this rumor . . ."

"Really? Guess I'm out of the loop. Thinking maybe we should split some tiramisu."

Guilty, your honor.

By **PETER MEHLMAN**

Los Angeles Times

Peter Mehlman is a comedian and former writer on "Seinfeld." He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



It would've been nice if, before this month when some of us finally copped a plea, we'd taken a second to visualize the actual open secret in action. It would've been nice if we'd gone deep enough to place ourselves inside the suites at the Peninsula and let the revulsion hit us, rather than just grabbing the open secret and converting it into currency.

It would have been nice if we'd stopped to think, "You know, my electrical contractor and insurance agent don't really need to know how far we go." It would have been nice if we'd imagined the day all this human wreckage would blow up, and gotten beyond wondering which rehab facility would be the logical choice for this particularly nasty case.

But then, this isn't a nice place.

Girl Scouts have every right to be mad about new Boy Scouts rule

By **CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS**

Philadelphia Daily News

My experience as a Girl Scout was short and bittersweet. When we moved to the suburbs from Philadelphia in 1969, I was recruited by the local Brownie troop to make friends, earn badges and sell cookies. I didn't last long at Troop 454, mostly because I didn't have the killer instinct to make my cookie quotas and the good-citizenship skills to avoid smashing my unsold cookie boxes in another Brownie's face after she taunted me about eating Thin Mints rather than selling them.

But memory has been kind—even if my fellow Brownie was not—and I don't regret the nine months, two weeks, three days, and four hours I spent wearing the Brownie jumper.

My recollections of the times spent with my brothers' Cub Scout troop are unambiguously happy. My mom was the neighborhood den mother, and we spent many afternoons creating Styrofoam replicas of Valley Forge, making model race cars for the Pinewood Derby, eating grilled cheese sandwiches and rehearsing for plays I would write—like "Pocahontas Meets John Smith." In a prescient nod to future gender controversies, our Pocahontas was played by a gorgeous little boy who would have brightened any number of wigwams. He didn't care, we didn't care, and the show was reviewed glowingly (by me). Like Shakespeare, we stuck with an all-male cast.

I was reminded of this earlier this week when the Boy

Scouts of America announced that it would accept girls as full-fledged members. This comes on the heels of the BSA's decision to allow gay scoutmasters, gay Scouts and then transgender Scouts into the fold. At this rate, it appears that membership in the human species might be optional in a not-too-distant future.

The official reason offered by the BSA was expressed by the group's national board chairman, Randall Stephenson, who said, "I've seen nothing that develops leadership skills and discipline like this organization. It is time to make these outstanding leadership development programs available to girls."

The Girl Scouts are not as enthusiastic about the prospect of getting raided by their brother organization.

Lisa Margosian, a spokeswoman for the Girl Scouts, countered that "so much of a girl's life is a life where she is in a coed environment, and we have so much research and data that suggests that girls really thrive in an environment where they can experiment, take risks, and stretch themselves in the company of other girls."

Margosian is right about girls flourishing in a same-sex environment. (I should know. I spent 13 years at an all-girls Catholic school and four years at a Seven Sisters college.) But she doesn't tell the more important part of the story, namely that all children have a right to bond with their same-sex companions.

I know that this concept is considered both antiquated and, increasingly, bigoted. It used to be that advocates of same-sex institutions had to battle against the prejudices of people who

thought single-sex environments cut kids off from "real-life" experiences and prevented them from interacting with their opposite-gender peers. That has been disproven time and time again, both at an empirical and an anecdotal level.

But with society's current embrace of gender parity, gender fluidity and gender obliteration, using any criteria to divide people along the sexuality fault lines is considered prejudicial, anachronistic and a violation of human rights. The idea that we don't need to acknowledge a child's sexual or gender identity before they even hit puberty has gone out the window, along with common sense.

The kindler, gentler, "triggered by a lawsuit" Scouts are forcing us to open up the doors to everyone, for everything. And the message that feminine girls are getting is that they are not good enough if they like crafting over rafting, singing over swinging a bat, cookies over rookies.

I personally think the Girl Scouts have every right to be angry. Just because your daughter wants to learn martial arts instead of quilting does not mean she needs to invade the boys' domain. Hire a Girl Scout leader with a black belt, but honor the integrity of the same-sex environment. And if your boy wants to play Pocahontas in a play, give me a call—there's precedent for that.

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.

TRUMP'S

From Page 10

excluded from thinner plans. And the insurers that serve them will wind up charging even higher premiums to cover the higher cost per enrollee. In short, pulling healthier people out of the state exchanges will only exacerbate the problem of rising premiums that Republicans claim to want to fix.

Granted, many Republicans chafe at the idea of requiring people to buy comprehensive policies. Why should those who don't use drugs have to carry coverage for substance abuse treatment, for instance? Why should men have to pay for maternity coverage? Or to put it more bluntly, why shouldn't individuals be responsible for their own problems?

That's like car insurance: Good drivers pay lower premiums. But public opinion polls show that Americans strongly favor a different model for health insurance, one that doesn't penalize people for having gotten sick or injured.

The way to improve the state exchanges is to bring more people into them, not fewer, so that costs and risks can be spread across a bigger base. That's the lesson from California, where aggressive marketing has helped boost enrollment of younger, healthier consumers and hold down premium increases.

Which brings us to the other, even more dramatic step Trump took Thursday: the White House's late-night announcement that it would no longer reimburse insurers for the cost of reducing the deductibles, co-pays and other out-of-pocket expenses incurred by their lowest-income customers.

The ACA not only compels insurers to make these "cost-sharing reductions," it requires the federal government to reimburse them. Yet Congress has declined to do so. So the Obama and Trump administrations have paid the reimbursements out of the funds the ACA provided for premium subsidies, prompting a legal battle with the House GOP leadership. The administration said Thursday that the House was right, and ended the payments effective immediately.

The move will cost insurers about \$7 billion a year, but that cost will still largely be passed on to federal taxpayers. To make up for the lost reimbursements, most states plan to let insurers charge higher premiums in the exchanges next year, assuming the insurers continue to do business there—which may not be a safe assumption. Because the vast majority of those buying policies in the exchange have their premiums subsidized by the federal government, the higher premiums will result in higher subsidy payments. So the pain of Trump's decision will be felt by the U.S. Treasury.

Still, the higher premiums in the exchanges will likely drive off some younger, healthier customers, who'll choose to go uninsured in 2018 instead. The shrinking pool will then raise premiums even more, leading to yet higher subsidies, further raising the bill for taxpayers—who at some point will recognize just whose fortunes the president is sabotaging.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South-west winds 5 to 15 mph.

▲88° ▼78°

WEDNESDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South-west winds 5 to 15 mph.

▲87° ▼77°

THURSDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲87° ▼77°

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

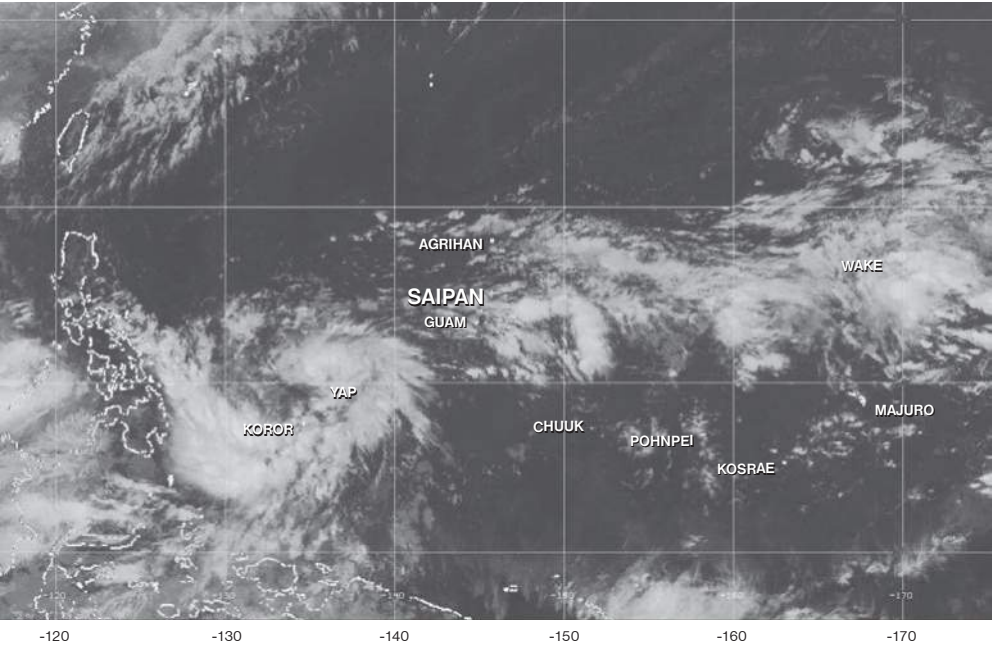
▲87° ▼77°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 11:45 AM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Depression Lan is heading away from the Marianas, although it is doing so quite tangentially, so it will take a while to put any serious additional distance away from us. Went ahead and started turning the swells from Lan, using GlobalWave as guidance for the direction. Did not at this point use the heights, which still seem to be a bit too high. Conditions should dry out as a peripheral ridge builds in behind Lan and sets up over the Marianas. This is the scenario depicted by the ECMWF-HiRes, which is what our wind grids are based on. Very limited changes to the inherited package.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	82° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°	
Chuuk	Showers	87° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 52°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	61° / 45°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	90° / 73°	
Honolulu	Windy	83° / 74°	
London	Showers	61° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	91° / 66°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Sunny	84° / 66°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
New York	Sunny	63° / 52°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 57°	
Paris	Sunny	73° / 57°	
Busan	Windy	64° / 61°	
Rome	Sunny	75° / 54°	
Salem	Sunny	73° / 48°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	64° / 47°	
Seoul	Cloudy	64° / 50°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	63° / 52°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	64° / 47°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:28 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.71	
11:56 AM	LOW TIDE	0.25	
6:15 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.94	
-	-	-	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Wednesday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Thursday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:43 am	4:19 pm	-
Wednesday	4:35 am	5:01 pm	-
Thursday	5:27 am	5:42 pm	-
Friday	6:17 am	6:23 pm	-
Saturday	7:07 am	7:04 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 4, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	Daily	LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1	JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4	JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)				NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN			
XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7	XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM	UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM	UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	SAIPAN TO ROTA			
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
				1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
				1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
				1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
				3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
				3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
				3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
				ROTA TO GUAM			
				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
				3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
				GUAM TO ROTA			
				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
				4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
				SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
				1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
				1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Territory delegates call for oversight hearing on Pacific territory vets

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, together with Delegate Aumua Amata (R-AS) and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-CNMI), wrote to Chairman Phil Roe and Ranking Member Tim Walz of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs requesting an oversight hearing to examine the challenges facing veterans residing in Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Independent Samoa, and the Freely Associated States. The Representatives noted that these areas suffer from minimal involvement by the national Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"Veterans in Guam and the Pacific territories should be treated equitably with their counterparts in the mainland, and receive the level of benefits they have earned from their service to our nation," said Bordallo. "Unfortunately our veterans continue to experience significant challenges,



Bordallo



Amata



Sablan

especially in receiving timely and accessible health care. While I was successful in obtaining funding to remodel and expand Guam's CBOC and in requiring the GAO to review the level of care provided to veterans in the Pacific, both of which are ongoing, I have been frustrated by continued short staffing levels on Guam and lack of resources dedicated to the needs of our veterans. I hope the House Veterans' Affairs Committee will work diligently to provide appropriate oversight for the concerns

on Guam, American Samoa, the CNMI, and other Pacific islands. I look forward to working with Congresswoman Amata and Congressman Sablan, and the Veterans Affairs Committee, to improve services provided to veterans in the Pacific."

"American Samoans enlist in the United States Army at a rate higher than any other place in the United States. American Samoa has also one of the highest percentage of veteran population of any area of the United States. Yet veterans in American Samoa

must travel over 2,500 miles to receive care in Hawai'i, and that's not to mention the lack of any benefits guidance by the VA counselors in Americans Samoa. American Samoans have served with distinction in the US Armed Forces for over a hundred years. It's time they received the care that they are owed," said Amata.

"The Northern Marianas is the only U.S. jurisdiction

without a VA clinic, dedicated VA medical or mental health professionals, or a Vet Center," said Congressman Sablan. "Our veterans have to travel to Guam or Hawaii to receive basic medical care. The VA must do more for the veterans in the Northern Marianas who served our country with honor and distinction. Veterans in the Pacific territories are entitled to the benefits they earned and

should be able to access those benefits where they live."

Amata and Sablan are members of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and sit on the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. Additionally, Amata sits on the Subcommittee on Health and Congressman Sablan serves on the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. (PR)

SCS honor list for 1Q

Saipan Community School has released its first quarter honor list for the first quarter of school year 2017/2018. They are as follows:

Principals list-4.00

Katie Choi - 7th grade
Angel Ren - 7th grade
Xin Yue (Moon) Zeng - 8th grade
Tina Zhen - 8th grade

"A" Honor Roll 3.50 to 3.99 - (No grades below B)

Isaiah Aleksenko - 6th grade
Paul William Camacho II - 6th grade
Jung Hyun (Olivia) Hwang

- 6th grade
Hui Yun (Joshua) Park - 6th grade
Camille Sablan - 6th grade
One An - 7th grade
Seo Young Baek - 7th grade
Miles Borja - 7th grade
Tiana Cabrera - 7th grade
Grace Ju - 7th grade
Dongyeon (Daniel) Kang - 7th grade
Sieun Michelle Ryu - 7th grade
Hyun Ah Cloie Seo - 7th grade
Sedrei Camacho - 8th grade
Jun Beom (Chris) Kim - 8th grade
Seung Won Lee - 8th grade
Shu Qi Wu - 8th grade
Haonan Zhou - 8th grade

"B" Honor Roll 3.00 to 3.49 - (No grades below a C)

Hyeyoon (Helen) Kim - 6th grade
Martin Hui Tai Park - 6th grade
Tiana Torres - 6th grade
Anika Camacho - 7th grade
Grace Kim - 7th grade
Amena Mahmud - 7th grade
Charles (Charlie) McDonald III - 7th grade
Hana Ojima - 7th grade
Jung Hyoun (Rina) Park - 7th grade
Jesus Ramon Sablan - 7th grade
Paul Ham - 8th grade
Erica Kim - 8th grade
Sean Sung Mook Lee - 8th grade. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman Community Church offers free rides to church

Kagman Community Church is offering free rides to church for anyone in the Kagman area. Rides are offered every Sunday for the 6pm worship service. The Sunday worship service includes music, a Bible study, a separate children's Bible study, and a snack. Rides are also offered to the free, monthly Saturday community breakfast. This is held the last Saturday of the month at 9am. KCC also has a monthly potluck on the last Sunday of the month at 5pm. Please call Zack at 789-8071 if you would like a ride. All ages are welcome. (PR)

Help sought to find missing passport

The public's help is being sought to locate a lost Philippine passport owned by Leopoldo Gatica, with passport number EC 4294173, which was issued on May 31, 2015, and is valid until May 30, 2020. He may be contacted at 4840516. (PR)

Free entrepreneurship training

As part of its Entrepreneur Training Program, the Latte Training Academy would like to invite any aspiring entrepreneurs to attend their first free training on "Making Your Dream Into a Success," on Oct. 25 at the Latte Training Academy Lab (third floor, Marianas Business Plaza). This training will aid you in understanding the initial steps in getting your business venture off the ground in the CNMI. This training is being held as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Business Enterprise Grant program. Under this program, the Latte Training Academy, Inc. is providing specialized training and technical services to help new entrepreneurs navigate the CNMI's unique business landscape, as well as tailor their businesses to the specific conditions of the economy. To register or for more information, visit www.lattetrainingacademy.com. (PR)

CNMI-OSHA outreach training on Saipan

The CNMI-OSHA Consultation Program will be conducting a free outreach training on Saipan on Oct. 24 (Tuesday) and Oct. 26, 2017 (Thursday), starting at 9am on both days, at the CNMI-OS-

HA Consultation Office training room.

Private sector employers interested in learning about OSHA injury and illness recordkeeping and reporting requirements are invited to participate. Seats are limited, so call Elaine Pangelinan at 664-3156 or email to Elaine.pangelinan@gmail.com to reserve your seats.

Outreach training for Rota and Tinian will be announced at a later date.

This program is voluntary, is not required by OSHA, and does not meet the training requirements of OSHA standards. (PR)

PH consulate to hold NMI outreach

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, will conduct a mobile consular outreach in the CNMI on Nov. 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, 2017 (Monday to Friday) at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 9am to 6pm.

Those who wish to renew their passport, submit your application at the Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Building D, second floor (top of the Mini-Mart Store), Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (12pm to 1pm, break time).

For any inquiry about passport renewal, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. (PR)

US Coast Guard to hold open house aboard cutter

HONOLULU—The public and media are invited to tour the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Walnut at the main wharf, Port of Pago Pago from 9am to 11am Tuesday, Oct. 17. A recruiting open house will follow from 2pm to 6pm.

The crew from the Walnut will be pulling into American Samoa during a routine patrol. The cutter will be open for public walk-through tours with crewmembers available to answer questions.

The recruiting outreach will be an interactive open house open to the public for anyone interested in learning more about the Coast Guard, our missions and how to pursue a career in our sea-going service. Recruiters will be present to answer any questions. Different crews, such as boarding team members and firefighters will be in different stations throughout the ship to talk with visitors, answer questions and demonstrate their jobs. (PR)

Commanding officer of *Assateague* assumes helm of *Kiska*

APRA HARBOR, Guam—Lt. Evin Moses took the helm from Lt. George Shepherd as commanding officer of Coast Guard Cutter *Kiska* (WPB 1336) during a change of command ceremony at Naval Base Guam, Friday.

Moses graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine and Environmental Science. His initial assignment was a Deck Watch Officer aboard cutter Thetis (WMEC 910) in Key West, Florida followed by assignment as assistant operations officer aboard cutter Waesche (WMSL 751), homeported in Alameda, California, from 2014 to 2016. Moses' took command of cutter *Assateague* (WPB 1447) in Guam in 2016 until its formal decommissioning, also Friday.

Moses' personal awards include two Coast Guard Achievement Medals and the Arctic Service Medal. A native of Austin, Texas, he is an outdoor enthusiast and enjoys spending time on the water.

Shepherd will be attending graduate school in the Washington, D.C. area.

Capt. Chris Chase, commander, Coast Guard Sector Guam, was the presiding official for the ceremony.

"The Coast Guard remains ready to protect American security and economic inter-

ests wherever called, and the recapitalizing of our vessels, aircraft, boats, and infrastructure is our highest priority," said Chase. "The *Kiska* and her crew will conduct search and rescue and law enforcement missions throughout the South Pacific. They will continue to support bilateral operations by hosting foreign enforcement officers during fisheries law enforcement patrols throughout the Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of Palau until replaced by the 154-foot Fast Response

Cutters scheduled to arrive in 2020."

The 110-foot patrol boat *Assateague* was officially decommissioned last Friday after 27 years of service as part of a service-wide recapitalization effort. *Assateague* and *Kiska* were built in the late '80s by Bollinger Shipyards in Lockport, Louisiana.

For more information contact the 14th District Public Affairs Office at 808-535-3230. All dates and times in Chamorro Standard Time ChST (GMT +10). (USCG)

Casting call for 'A Christmas Carol'

In a festive mood, the ladies of the Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society are ready to mount an assault on the classics with their stage version of Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol." They enthusiastically portray a dizzy array of characters from the holiday favorite (and a few which aren't), engineer some novel audience participation while bravely contending with an intrusive PA system and wrap their vocal cords and feet around two original, show stopping songs.

Auditions are set at the Marianas High School on Oct. 18 and 25 at 6pm. Show dates are on Dec. 15, 16, and 17.

Roles up for grabs are the

following:

■ Mrs. Reece - elegant, bossy, enterprising; female, mid-40s to mid-50s

■ Thelma - quick tempered Prima Donna; female, mid-30s to mid-40s

■ Mercedes - dispassionate yet tenacious; female, not young

■ Felicity - nervous, well meaning but incompetent actress; female, mid-20s to mid-30s

■ Gordon - long-suffering stage manager, frozen-faced/monotonous when acting; male, adult

For more information contact MariLou @256-9540 or email saipanfoa@gmail.com, subject line: Christmas Show. (PR)

Business

Collins urges Trump to back effort to restore health subsidy

WASHINGTON (AP)—A key moderate Republican urged President Donald Trump on Sunday to back a bipartisan Senate effort to shield consumers from rising premiums after his abrupt decision to halt federal payments to insurers. Sen. Susan Collins called the move “disruptive” and an immediate threat to access to health care.

“What the president is doing is affecting people’s access and the cost of health care right now,” said Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, who has cast pivotal votes on health care in the narrowly divided Senate. “This is not a bailout of the insurers. What this money is used for is to help low-income people afford their deductibles and their co-pays.”

“Congress needs to step in and I hope that the president will take a look at what we’re doing,” she added.

Her comments reflected an increasing focus Sunday on the bipartisan Senate effort led by Sens. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., and Patty Murray, D-Wash., to at least temporarily reinstate the payments to avoid immediate turmoil in the insurance market, even as Trump signaled he wouldn’t back a deal without getting something he wants in return.

The payments will be stopped beginning this week, with sign-up season for subsidized private insurance set to start Nov. 1.

“The president is not going to continue to throw good money after bad, give \$7 bil-



Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, smiles during a news conference Friday, Oct. 13, 2017, in Rockland, Maine, after announcing she will remain in the U.S. Senate and not run for governor.

lion to insurance companies unless something changes about Obamacare that would justify it,” said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who golfed with Trump Saturday at the Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Virginia.

“It’s got to be a good deal,” Graham said.

In his decision last week, Trump derided the \$7 billion in subsidies as bailouts to insurers and suggested he was trying to get Democrats to negotiate and agree to a broader effort to repeal and replace former President Barack

Obama’s health care law, a bid that repeatedly crashed in the GOP-run Senate this summer.

The payments seek to lower out-of-pocket costs for insurers, which are required under Obama’s law to reduce poorer people’s expenses—about 6 million people. To recoup the lost money, carriers are likely to raise 2018 premiums for people buying their own health insurance policies.

Alexander and Murray have been seeking a deal that the Tennessee Republican has said would reinstate the payments for two years. In

exchange, Alexander said, Republicans want “meaningful flexibility for states” to offer lower-cost insurance policies with less coverage than Obama’s law mandates.

Still, congressional Republicans are divided over that effort. White House budget director Mick Mulvaney has suggested that Trump may oppose any agreement un-

Yellen sounds upbeat on economy, signaling likely rate hike

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen on Sunday sketched a bright outlook for the U.S. economy and for inflation prospects in coming months, saying the impact of the recent hurricanes will likely slow economic growth slightly but only temporarily and should be followed by a rebound by year’s end.

Her comments suggested that the central bank will soon resume raising interest rates to reflect the strengthening economy. Most economists foresee the next rate hike—the third this year—coming in December.

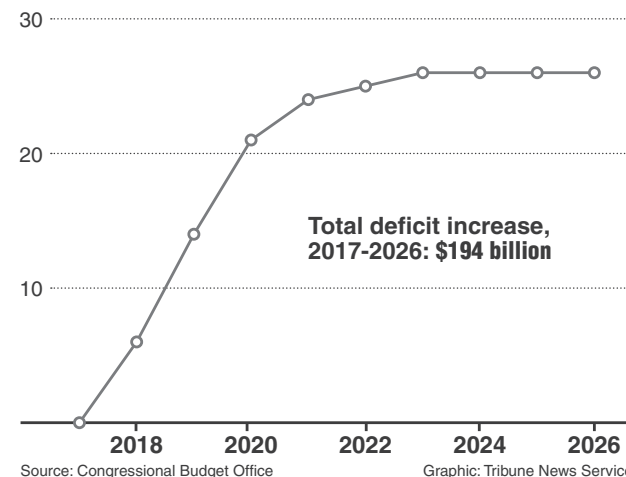
Speaking to an international banking seminar, Yellen acknowledged that the persistence of undesirably low inflation this year has been a surprise. But she said she expected inflation to start picking up as the effects of temporary factors, such as falling prices for consumer cellphone service, begin to fade.

“Economic activity in the

Effects of ending cost-saving payments

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that ending the cost-sharing subsidies that health insurers receive would increase the federal deficit, due to an increase in tax credits from the resulting increase in health care premiums.

Estimated deficit increase
In billions of dollars



less he gets something he wants—such as a repeal of Obamacare or funding of Trump’s promised wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

On Sunday, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., described Trump’s demand for a sit-down with congressional Democratic leaders as “a little far down the road.” She noted the bipartisan effort in the Senate and said ultimately it will be up to a Republican-controlled Congress and executive branch whether the federal government can avert a shutdown by year’s end.

The government faces a Dec. 8 deadline on the debt limit and government spending.

“We’re not about closing down government. The Republicans have the majority,” Pelosi said. “In terms of the health care, we’re saying ‘Let’s follow what Sen. Murray and Alexander are doing.’”

Collins praised the Senate effort so far, which included public hearings by the Senate health and education committee. Still, she acknowledged a potentially tough road in reaching broader agreement.

Las Vegas tourism sees changes in aftermath of shooting

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Las Vegas’ tourism sector is bracing for changes in the aftermath of the massacre that killed 58 people at an outdoor music festival.

Analysts who closely track the finances of the city’s casino companies say Las Vegas will see a short-term dip in visitors in response to the shooting.

Casinos and police may have to impose new security measures after gunman Stephen Paddock brought more than 20 rifles into his hotel room and drove a car filled with explosives into the parking garage.

The “What Happens in Vegas Stays in Vegas” slogan has been put on hold, as has one unveiled in the weeks before the shooting by the owner of Mandalay Bay that said, “We are not in the hotel business ... we are in the holy s--- business.”

Electronic billboards that typically promote restaurants, concerts, a topless pool and other entertainment are now

showing a dedicated phone line for victims and their families, along with words of appreciation for first responders and casino employees.

“We’ve been there for you during the good times. Thank you for being there for us now,” reads a black-and-white billboard message with the city skyline and “#VegasStrong.”

It’s hard to quantify the effect the shooting will have on Las Vegas tourism. Airplanes still carry loads of tourists to the desert oasis, convention-goers fill large halls to discuss the latest industry trends, and slot machines ring in the casinos.

But stock prices of the main Las Vegas casino companies all took a minor tumble after the shooting, in an indication the attack will have some effect on the industry. Analysts with investment bank Morgan Stanley forecast the shooting will decrease demand for the Las Vegas market for about six months and have a 4 percent to

6 percent economic effect.

The analysts looked into the effect of terrorist attacks on “revenue per available room,” a key gauge of a lodging company’s performance, across different markets to measure the shooting’s potential impact. The report said not all markets are alike, but the effects on tourism of events such as the Orlando, Florida, nightclub attack have gradually become less pronounced and shorter.

On Oct. 1, Paddock, a 64-year-old professional video poker player, shattered windows of his hotel suite on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay hotel casino and unleashed withering gunfire at the Route 91 Harvest country music festival below before killing himself. His vehicle was found at the hotel’s massive parking garage with a potentially deadly cargo of 1,600 rounds of ammunition and 90 pounds of chemical explosives.



Yellen

United States has been growing moderately so far this year, and the labor market has continued to strengthen,” Yellen said in a speech to a panel that included central bank officials from China, Japan and the European Central Bank.

Of the hurricanes that struck Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, Yellen noted that they caused enormous damage. But she added:

“While the effects of the hurricanes on the U.S. economy are quite noticeable in the short term, history suggests that the longer-term effects will be modest and that aggregate economic activity will recover quickly.”

Yellen said that the economy’s growth, as measured by the gross domestic product, might have slowed slightly in the July-September quarter as a consequence of the hurricanes but that growth is likely rebounding in the current quarter.

The Fed chair’s speech Sunday followed the central

bank’s decision at its meeting last month to leave its benchmark short-term rate unchanged in a range of 1 percent to 1.25 percent. At the same time, the Fed announced that it would begin paring its enormous portfolio of bonds, which it had amassed after the 2008 financial crisis in an effort to hold down long-term loan rates for consumers and businesses. The move to let its balance sheet gradually shrink could mean higher rates on mortgages and other loans over time.

During a question period, Yellen was asked whether a booming stock market that some see as overvalued or potentially higher budget deficits resulting from the Trump administration’s tax cut plan had increased economic uncertainty.

Yellen declined to respond specifically but noted that the Fed’s staff has described stock prices as elevated. At the same time, she said market levels should be viewed in the context of a banking system that she called “dramatically improved” since the 2008 financial crisis.

Nation

CA firefighters say they finally 'turned a corner'

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP)—With the winds dying down, fire officials said Sunday they have apparently “turned a corner” against the wildfires that have devastated California wine country and other parts of the state over the past week, and thousands of people got the all-clear to return home.

While the danger from the deadliest, most destructive cluster of blazes in California history was far from over, the smoky skies started to clear in some places.

“A week ago this started as a nightmare, and the day we dreamed of has arrived,” Napa County Supervisor Belia Ramos said.

People were being allowed to go back home in areas no longer in harm’s way, and the number of those under evacuation orders was down to 75,000 from nearly 100,000 the day before.

Fire crews were able to gain ground because the winds that had fanned the flames did not kick up overnight as much as feared.

“Conditions have drasti-

cally changed from just 24 hours ago, and that is definitely a very good sign,” said Daniel Berlant, spokesman for California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, who noted that some of the fires were 50 percent or more contained. “It’s probably a sign we’ve turned a corner on these fires.”

The blazes were blamed for at least 40 deaths and destroyed some 5,700 homes and other structures. The death toll could climb as searchers dig through the ruins for people listed as missing. Hundreds were unaccounted for, though authorities said many of them are probably safe but haven’t let anyone know.

In hard-hit Sonoma County, Sheriff Rob Giordano said authorities have located 1,560 of the more than 1,700 once listed as missing. Many of those names were put on the list after people called from out of state to say they couldn’t reach a friend or relative.

Sonoma County officials said they will not let people

return home until it is safe and utilities are restored. Crews have been working around the clock to connect water and power, in some cases putting up new poles next to smoldering trees, the sheriff said.

Many evacuees grew increasingly impatient to go home—or at least find out whether their homes were spared. Others were reluctant to go back or to look for another place to live.

Juan Hernandez, who escaped with his family from his apartment Oct. 9 before it burned down, still had his car packed and ready to go in case the fires flared up again and threatened his sister’s house, where they have been staying in Santa Rosa.

“Every day we keep hearing sirens at night, alarms,” Hernandez said. “We’re scared. When you see the fire close to your house, you’re scared.”

Evacuation orders were lifted for the city of Calistoga, the Napa Valley city of 5,000 known for its mud baths, mineral spas and wine tastings. The city was cleared



shelter with people snoring and dogs barking through the night.

She and her husband, William Krier, 89, were anxious to get home, but after being evacuated for a second time in a week Saturday, they didn’t want to risk having to leave again.

“We’re cautious,” she said. “We want to be safe.”

Nearly 11,000 firefighters were still battling 15 fires burning across a 100-mile swath of the state.

In the wooded mountains east of Santa Rosa, where a mandatory evacuation remained in place, a large plume of white smoke rose high in the sky as firefighters tried to prevent the fire from burning into a retirement community and advancing onto the floor of Sonoma Valley, known for its wineries.

Houses that had benefited from repeated helicopter water drops were still standing as smoke blew across surrounding ridges. A deer crossed the highway from a burned-out area and wandered into a

vineyard not reached by the flames.

Those who were allowed back into gutted neighborhoods returned to assess the damage and, perhaps, see if anything was salvageable.

Jack Daniels had recently completed a year-long remodel of his Napa house near the Silverado Country Club and watched it go up in flames last week as he, his wife, 7-year-old grandson and two pugs backed out of the driveway.

His neighbors, Charles Rippey, 100, and his wife, Sara, 98, were the oldest victims identified so far in the wildfires.

Daniels, 74, a wine importer and exporter, said he lost everything left behind, including his wife’s jewelry and 3,000 bottles of wine in his cellar.

“It’s heartbreaking,” the 74-year-old said. “This was going to be our last house. I guess we’ve got one more move. But we’re fortunate. We got away. Most things can be replaced. The bank didn’t burn down.”

A helicopter drops water onto a burning wildfire, Sunday, Oct. 15, 2017, in Oakville, Calif. **AP**

US, states struggle to pay spiraling cost of fighting fires

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The long and brutal 2017 wildfire season is stressing the state and federal agencies that have to pay for the army of ground crews and machinery required to fight them.

The federal government spent more than \$2.7 billion on firefighting in its most recently finished budget year, a record that far surpassed the previous high point of \$2.1 billion set just two years ago.

In California, firefighting costs have already chewed through more than half of the state’s \$469 million emergency fund for big fires just three months in—and that doesn’t include the costs of the recent catastrophic fires that have claimed dozens of lives and thousands of buildings.

California officials said Friday they expect the cost of fighting those fires will be hundreds of millions of dollars.

Montana also struggled to pay for firefighting this year, with costs approaching \$400 million by late September.

With pressure increasing on lawmakers and forest managers to find new ways to pay for firefighting and for fire prevention, here’s a look at some of key

questions:

WHY ARE COSTS GOING UP?

The U.S. is seeing more and bigger wildfires, and the wildfire season is getting longer. The reasons are hotter, drier weather and a buildup of dead and dying trees because of past fire-suppression practices, said Jennifer Jones, a spokeswoman for the National Interagency Fire Center, which coordinates firefighting nationwide.

The old practice of putting out all fires led to overgrown forests, some with huge tracts of trees that died at about the same time, leaving them prone to large, hot, fast-moving blazes, researchers say.

Some climate and forestry experts say global warming is a factor in the increasing number of fires because it’s contributing to the hot, dry weather.

Jones said another development driving up costs is the increasing number of homes being built in or near forests, a number that the Forest Service estimates is about 43 million homes. Keeping fires away from people, houses, power lines and other infrastructure is more complicated and costly than firefighting in the wilds.

WHO PAYS TO FIGHT FIRES?

The federal government, most states and some local agencies have firefighting budgets. Who gets the bill for any one fire depends on where it starts and whether it burns on land owned by the federal government, a state or local government or a private individual.

The U.S. Forest Service is the nation’s primary wildfire-fighting agency, but the Interior Department also pays hundreds of millions of dollars a year in fire costs.

Before 2000, the U.S. government’s firefighting costs never reached \$1 billion. Since 2000, they have topped \$1 billion 14 times, and they exceeded \$1.5 billion 10 times, according to Forest Service records.

Many fires burn across public and private lands. When that happens, everyone involved negotiates a cost-sharing deal, sometimes leading to disputes. In July, California accused the federal government of stiffing the state \$18 million for fighting fires on federal land. The Forest Service said it had paid \$14 million of that and was trying to resolve differences over

the rest.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

The Forest Service budgets firefighting money each year, based on the average spent over the most recent 10 years. That was about \$1.9 billion in the budget year that just ended.

Because fires are getting worse, they are eating up a bigger and bigger chunk of the overall Forest Service budget. In 1991, it was 13 percent; in 2017, it was 57 percent, Jones said.

California officials say they have more flexibility than the federal government. CalFire, the state firefighting agency, has a \$1 billion firefighting budget in addition to the \$469 million emergency fund for big fires.

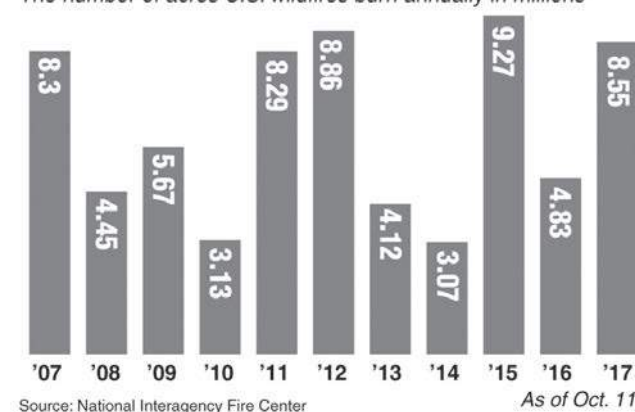
“We will not run out of money to pay for these fires that threaten people’s lives and property,” CalFire spokeswoman Janet Upton said Thursday. “Our incident commanders out there on all these 21 fires today, they’re not thinking about the checkbook. They’re thinking about protecting life and property.”

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN COSTS GO OVER BUDGET?

The Forest Service dips into

Wildfire acre consumption

The number of acres U.S. wildfires burn annually in millions



other programs, leaving less money for activities like clearing out dead and diseased trees that could help reduce the number and size of fires, Jones said.

Other programs suffer, too, including recreation and habitat for fish and wildlife, she said.

IS THERE A BETTER WAY TO PAY FOR FIREFIGHTING?

The Forest Service firefighting budget ran about \$500 million over in the most recently finished budget, about 25 percent more than what was set aside.

disasters and be paid for out of the federal Disaster Relief Fund. That would stabilize the Forest Service budget and help preserve money for fire-prevention programs.

Many members of Congress agree—but they disagree on how to go about making the change.

Two bills are before Congress to fix the funding. Both would pay for at least some big fires from the Disaster Relief Fund. But one also calls on the Forest Service to manage its woodlands more actively, including thinning dense stands of trees and removing dead trees in an effort to reduce fires. Some argue that pushing management practices is unnecessary and ineffective.

Asia

Last leaders of IS-tied siege killed in Marawi

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The two final surviving leaders of a deadly siege in the southern Philippines, including a top Asian terror suspect, were killed Monday in one of the final battles by thousands of troops to retake the last area in Marawi city held by pro-Islamic State group militants, the defense chief and other top security officials said.

Four military and police officials told The Associated Press that Isnlon Hapilon, who is listed among the FBI's most-wanted terror suspects, and Omarkhayam Maute were killed in a gunbattle and their bodies were found Monday in Marawi.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to make a public announcement yet of the latest developments in Marawi, a mosque-studded center of Islamic faith in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation. Defense Secretary Lorenzana later confirmed the militant deaths.

"Yes, they are confirmed dead," Lorenzana said, adding DNA tests would be done

on the remains of the two militant leaders to pave the way for the payment of huge U.S. and Philippine bounties offered for the two.

A top Malaysian militant, Mahmud bin Ahmad, who uses the nom de guerre Abu Handzalah and is a close associate of Hapilon, has not been found and was among the remaining militants being hunted by troops, he said.

The U.S. State Department has offered a reward of up to \$5 million for Hapilon, whom Washington blames for ransom kidnappings of several Americans, one of whom was beheaded in 2001 in southern Basilan province. Hapilon had been indicted in the District of Columbia for his alleged involvement in terrorist acts against U.S. nationals and other foreigners.

Military leaders had said last month that three leaders of the militants who began the siege of the lakeside city on May 23 were killed in the months of fighting but the two still alive were leading a final stand.

More than 1,000 people have been killed in the Marawi violence, including more than



This file image taken from undated video shown to The Associated Press by the Philippine military shows the purported leader of the Islamic State group Southeast Asia branch, Isnlon Hapilon, right, at a meeting of militants at an undisclosed location.

800 militants. Army Col. Romeo Brawner said Sunday about 40 militants were still fighting in a small hilly residential area by Lanao Lake, including 100 relatives of the gunmen and civilian hostages.

On Saturday, troops attempted to rescue several hostages but only snatched a 16-year-old female captive because of intense militant fire, which wounded an army battalion commander and more than 20 other soldiers, Brawner said. The rescued hostage provided the crucial information that allowed troops to locate Hapilon and Maute in one

building, Lorenzana said.

Among the last batch of surviving fighters were about 10 foreigners, mostly Malaysians and Indonesians, but there were no immediate word about their condition, the military said.

At least 17 hostages, including an infant and women, were rescued by troops in the scene of the battle, which the officials said may finally end this week. U.S.-trained army and police commandos crawled toward militant positions overnight and launched an assault.

Several gunmen holed up in low-slung buildings and houses remained fighting and were

holding hostages, delaying military efforts to finally end the siege. President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in the south, scene of decades-old Muslim separatist uprising, to deal with the siege, the worst crisis he has faced since rising to power in June last year.

Duterte has gone to the battle area a number of times to rally the troops, once firing a sniper rifle toward militant position. He has vowed to have the militants killed to the last man because of the deaths and destruction wrought by the violence in Marawi. The Islamic city's 200,000 people, along

with tens of thousands of others in nearby towns, abandoned their homes and businesses as the fighting began to rage and crammed evacuation shelters outside Marawi, sparking a humanitarian crisis.

The siege has sparked fears that the Islamic State group may gain a foothold in Southeast Asia by influencing and providing funds to local militants as it suffers battle defeats in Syria and Iraq.

The United States and Australia have deployed surveillance aircraft to help Filipino troops battling the Marawi attackers.

Malaysia rolls out red carpet for Qatar's emir

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia on Monday rolled out the red carpet for Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, who is on his first trip abroad since a diplomatic crisis erupted in June between his nation and four Arab countries.

Sheikh Tamim, who arrived in Kuala Lumpur late Sunday, was given a 21-gun salute at a state welcoming ceremony in Parliament. He also inspected a guard-of-honor during the ceremony attended by Malaysia's king, Prime Minister Najib Razak and Cabinet ministers.

Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates cut ties with Qatar on June 5 due to its close ties with Iran and support for extremist groups in the region, charges denied by Doha. They also launched an economic boycott, stopping Qatar Airways flights from using their airspace, closing off the small country's sole land border with Saudi Arabia and blocking its ships from using their ports.

The emir's trip to Malaysia comes eight months after the visit of Saudi Arabia's King

Salman, the first by a Saudi king in more than a decade.

The Gulf crisis puts predominantly Muslim Malaysia in a tight spot as it is close to both Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Najib in July backed Kuwait's effort to mediate the crisis and called for a swift solution.

"We pray that all differences among our Arab brothers will be settled amicably and that the unity and harmony of the (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries can be restored," he said in a statement.

Malaysia's foreign ministry said it was the first visit by a ruling Qatari emir since Shekih Tamim's father visited Malaysia in 2009. It said the visit would provide an opportunity for the leaders to discuss bilateral issues and exchange views on issues of common interest.

Sheikh Tamim is scheduled to meet Najib and Malaysia's king, followed by a state banquet at the palace before leaving late Monday.

Qatar is Malaysia's 40th largest trading partner, with total trade of \$566 million in 2016.

ASIA BRIEFS

Boat carrying Rohingya Muslims capsizes, at least 5 dead

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—An overcrowded boat carrying Rohingya Muslims fleeing Myanmar capsized Monday in the Bay of Bengal near a Bangladeshi fishing village, leaving a woman and four children dead, police said. Survivors of the capsizing told local officials that up to 65 people were on board and almost half of them were children, local police official Sheikh Ashrafuzzaman said. The capsizing occurred as the boat was approaching Shah Porir Dwp in Teknaf in Cox's Bazar district bordering Myanmar's Rakhine state. He said villagers told police they recovered five bodies and at least 21 people survived. Including Monday's capsizing, boat accidents have killed at least 160 Rohingya trying to reach Bangladesh.

Philippine, Australian forces stage sea drill as ties deepen

SUBIC BAY, Philippines (AP)—Filipino and Australian naval forces darted across the sea and landed on a Philippine wharf in a disaster-response drill Sunday that reflects their deepening security ties in a region prone to calamities, piracy and territorial rifts. Lt. Col. Daniel Turner of the Australian Defence Force said the naval maneuvers in Subic Bay, northwest of Manila, will strengthen the two countries' ability to jointly respond to typhoons and other disasters when roads, bridges and ports are damaged or destroyed. The drills reflect the strengthening security relations between the two U.S. allies despite Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's often antagonistic stance toward American security policy. Australia and the United States have deployed surveillance aircraft to help Filipino troops quell a disastrous siege by pro-Islamic State group militants in southern Marawi city. During the maneuvers, more than 100 Philippine marines and Australian naval personnel took off from an Austra-

lian navy ship, the HMAS Adelaide, on board troop carriers then rushed to a port at Subic Bay, a former U.S. naval base. Two Associated Press journalists were allowed to witness the exercises from a helicopter.

Pakistan says Indian fire in Kashmir kills 2 children

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan says Indian fire across the Line of Control in the disputed Kashmir region has killed two children. The Foreign Ministry said Sunday it summoned an Indian envoy to protest the "unprovoked" violation of a 2003 cease-fire, which took place the day before. It said three other children and a man were wounded. There was no immediate response from India. The two nuclear-armed rivals routinely accuse each other of firing across the Line of Control. Each controls part of Kashmir but claims it in its entirety, and they have fought two wars over the region.

Taliban denies rescued Canadian hostage's accusations

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A Taliban spokesman has rejected as "false and propaganda" the allegations of rescued Canadian hostage Joshua Boyle that his child was murdered and his wife raped during his captivity in Afghanistan. Zabihullah Mujahid in a statement Sunday said the accusations against the Taliban are "baseless and false." Mujahid said the young girl died after falling ill in an area where no doctor or medicines were available, and that Boyle was never separated from his wife his during captivity. He added that the released hostage was now in the hands of "the enemy" and can be pressured into say anything against the Taliban. Boyle and his American wife, Caitlan Coleman, and their three children were rescued Wednesday, five years after being abducted while on a backpacking trip in Afghanistan.

World

276 killed in deadliest single attack in Somalia's history

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—The most powerful bomb blast ever witnessed in Somalia's capital killed 276 people with around 300 others injured, the country's information minister said early Monday, making it the deadliest single attack in this Horn of Africa nation. The toll was expected to rise.

In a tweet, Abdirahman Osman called the attack "barbaric" and said countries including Turkey and Kenya had already offered to send medical aid. Hospitals were overwhelmed a day after a truck bomb targeted a crowded street near key government ministries, including foreign affairs.

As angry protesters gathered near the scene of the attack, Somalia's government blamed the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group for what it called a "national disaster." However, Africa's deadliest Islamic extremist group, which often targets high-profile areas of the capital, had yet to comment.

Al-Shabab earlier this year vowed to step up attacks after both the Trump administration and Somalia's recently elected president announced new military efforts against the group.

The Mogadishu bombing is one of the deadliest attacks in sub-Saharan Africa, larger than the Garissa University attack in Kenya in 2015 and the U.S. Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.

Doctors at Mogadishu hospitals struggled to assist badly wounded victims, many burned beyond recognition. "This is really horrendous, unlike any other time in the past," said Dr. Mohamed Yusuf, the director of Medina hospital.

Inside, bleary-eyed nurses transported a man whose legs had been blown off. He



AP
Somalis remove the body of a man killed in Saturday's blast, in Mogadishu, Somalia Sunday, Oct. 15, 2017.

killing only civilians."

Rescue workers searched for survivors trapped under the rubble of the largely destroyed Safari Hotel, which is close to Somalia's foreign ministry. The explosion blew off metal gates and blast walls erected outside the hotel.

The United States condemned the bombing, saying "such cowardly attacks reinvigorate the commitment of the United States to assist our Somali and African Union partners to combat the scourge of terrorism." It tweeted a photo of its charge d'affaires in Somalia donating blood.

But the U.S. Africa Command said U.S. forces had not been asked to provide aid. A spokesman told The Associated Press that first responders and local enforcement would handle the response and "the U.S. would offer assistance if and when a request was made."

The U.S. military has stepped up drone strikes and other efforts this year against al-Shabab, which is also fighting the Somali military and over 20,000 African Union forces in the country.

waited as surgeons attended to another badly injured patient. Exhausted doctors struggled to keep their eyes open, while screams from victims and newly bereaved families echoed through the halls.

"Nearly all of the wounded victims have serious wounds," said nurse Samir Abdi. "Unspeakable horrors." The smell of blood was strong.

A teary-eyed Hawo Yusuf looked at her husband's badly burned body. "He may die waiting," she said. "We need help."

Ambulance sirens echoed across the city as bewildered families wandered in the rubble of buildings, looking for missing relatives. "In our 10 year experience as the first responder in #Mogadishu, we haven't seen anything like this," the Aamin Ambulance service tweeted.

Grief overwhelmed many. "There's nothing I can say.

We have lost everything," wept Zainab Sharif, a mother of four who lost her husband. She sat outside a hospital where he was pronounced dead after hours of efforts by doctors to save him.

The country's Somali-American leader, President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, declared three days of mourning and joined thou-

sands of people who responded to a desperate plea by hospitals to donate blood. "I am appealing all Somali people to come forward and donate," he said.

Mogadishu, a city long accustomed to deadly bombings by al-Shabab, was stunned by the force of Saturday's blast. The explosion shattered hopes of recovery in an impoverished country left fragile

by decades of conflict, and it again raised doubts over the government's ability to secure the seaside city of more than 2 million people.

"They don't care about the lives of Somali people, mothers, fathers and children," Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khairi said of the attackers. "They have targeted the most populated area in Mogadishu,

Iraqi forces enter territory disputed with Kurds

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi federal forces entered disputed territory held by Kurds early Monday, seeking to end a nearly month-old political fight over areas taken under control by Kurdish militias three years ago to defend the oil city of Kirkuk against the Islamic State group.

The Iraqi army and federal

anti-terrorist and police units rolled into parts of the countryside outside the city without facing resistance from Kurdish peshmerga forces, Al-Iraqiya state TV said. However, some residents of the city and an Iraqi militia commander reported shelling.

Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi's office said in a state-

ment carried on Al-Iraqiya that Iraq's leader ordered federal forces to "impose security in the city in cooperation with the inhabitants and the peshmerga," indicating he was willing to share administration of the city with the Kurdish autonomous region that neighbors Kirkuk province.

The move came three weeks after Kurds voted for independence in a controversial but symbolic referendum that Baghdad has so refused to acknowledge. It says the vote organized by the country's regional Kurdish authority was unconstitutional.

A commander of the local Kurdish police force said his forces remained in control of the province's disputed oil wells. "There's been no agreement to hand over the wells until now. As for the future, I don't know," said Bahja Ahmad Amin.

Kurdish forces deployed into the now disputed areas after Iraqi federal defenses crumbled during an advance by Islamic State fighters in 2014. Baghdad has insisted the Kurds return control of the

areas ever since.

Inside Kirkuk city, which is home to more than 1 million people, residents shuttered themselves in homes and reported hearing sporadic booms they said sounded like shelling and rocket fire.

Iraq's state-sanctioned Popular Mobilization Militias were ordered to stay out of the city, according to Abadi's office, and instead keep positions in the countryside. They are viewed with deep suspicion by Kurdish residents, who see them as beholden to Iran rather than Iraq's central government. The predominantly Shiite militias are sponsored and guided by Tehran.

Ercuman Turkman, a PMF militia commander, said shortly before forces began moving in that he expected orders to move on to Kirkuk's oil wells, its airport and the nearby K-1 military base, but not the city. Haytham Hashem, another PMF commander, reported shelling on his position in Toz Khormato, 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the edge of Kirkuk city.

WORLD BRIEFS

Election produces likely right turn, young leader in Austria

VIENNA (AP)—Austria's 31-year-old foreign minister declared victory for his party Sunday in a national election that set him up to become Europe's youngest leader and puts the country on course for a rightward turn. Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz claimed the win as final results announced by the Interior Ministry showed his People's Party had a comfortable lead with almost all the ballots counted. Noting that his center-right party had triumphed over the rival Social

Democrats only twice since the end of World War II, Kurz called it a "historic victory." "Today is not the day of triumph over others, but today is our chance for real change in this country," he told cheering supporters. Still to be counted are more than 800,000 absentee ballots and ones cast by voters outside of their home districts. The outstanding votes are due to be tallied by mid-week. However, the votes counted so far show that Austria, where moderate policies have been the norm for decades, will have a government with a harder line on migration and Muslims than one running the country now.

Venezuela officials: Ruling party wins most governorships

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela's National Electoral Council said candidates for the socialist movement founded by the late President Hugo Chavez won nearly all of the 23 governorships up for grabs in Sunday's regional elections. Opposition leaders disputed the accuracy of the vote count. Independent pollsters had projected the opposition would ride a wave of discontent over Venezuela's economic calamity and win a majority of the state elections for the first time in nearly

two decades of socialist rule. Tibisay Lucena, the pro-government president of the electoral council, said socialist party candidates won 17 of the 22 races in which the outcomes were considered "irreversible" late Sunday. One race was still undecided. Lucena said 61 percent of the nation's 18 million voters participated in the elections, far higher than many people had anticipated. Even before the results were announced, opposition leader Gerardo Blyde said there was reason to question the results. He said the opposition's count would be "very different" from the electoral council's results.

Focus

By MATT SEDENSKY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—In a classroom, an old man glides in pushing a walker, and none of the young faces turn. In the cafeteria, a white-haired woman eats across from a teenager, to no one's surprise. And walking to the school bus, students pass wheelchairs and oxygen tanks as nonchalantly as if they were backpacks and notebooks.

The Hebrew Home at Riverdale, a nursing home on a picturesque stretch of the Hudson River in the Bronx, has gone beyond its calling as a house for the old, playing host to the young with an innovative public high school right within its walls. The students, all of whom have learning disabilities, get vocational training to prepare them for a job at the home or elsewhere, all in the peculiar setting of a school where the old far outnumber the young.

"It's as though they have 840 grandparents keeping an eye on them every day," said Daniel Reingold, CEO of the Hebrew Home and the school's founder.

Reingold started the program around 1995 to address a pair of problems—the difficulty in filling entry-level positions at the home and a "lost generation" of young people born to drug-addicted mothers during the crack cocaine epidemic in the 1980s. After about a decade, the program—called HOPE, for health care offers permanent employment—shifted focus to students with autism and intellectual disabilities, a population Reingold sees as akin to the home's residents.

"They are both isolated," he said. "Older adults in this country are isolated, and young people with learning disabilities can be isolated."

The school day begins like any other, with morning-weary students filing off yellow buses into a cafeteria where they eat egg-and-cheese sandwiches and sip apple juice. Twelve students, all wearing pale green polo shirts with the HOPE logo affixed, await the start of the day's schedule, when any signs of this being a normal high school fade away. With the prodding of their teacher, Nick Kinas, they shuffle off to work assignments across this sprawling complex.

Indeasia Watson, 21, settles into a nurse's station, keying data into a computer before being sent on an errand to a downstairs lab. She picks up lancets and diabetic strips, balancing a stack of small cartons between her hands and chin as



AP William Bazan, 20, in the HOPE program at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale, in New York, works on his reading skills with resident Selma Bachner, 90, in an atrium of the facility Thursday, May 25, 2017.

A nursing home's high school teaches lessons on life

she passes women in wheelchairs preparing for a music therapy class.

For some students—including Watson, who says she will aim for a clerical job after graduating—the school inspires them to consider for the first time what career they might pursue. For others, their experience at the Hebrew Home may be guided by their stated interests. A girl who likes doing hair and nails works answering phones at the home's beauty parlor; a boy who dreams of working as a graphic designer helps in the home's art studio.

Keith Brown, 20, recalls not wanting to start at the Hebrew Home, nervous about its size and unfamiliarity. Two years later, he's a fixture, squeezing his tall frame into a supply room where he stores shipments of cups, straws and nebulizer medications, then off to a trash room loading empty boxes into a compact car.

Brown completed training needed to allow him to skip the school bus and take the subway and public bus himself, an hour each way from

his home in Harlem. That qualified him to apply for a paid job at the home; he was hired for a weekend position pushing wheelchair-bound residents to appointments and activities.

"I was shocked!" a beaming Brown said of his hiring, as he awaited his first paycheck.

Students must be able to communicate to take part in the program, and the home targets candidates who exhibit independence and compassion. Because dealing with change can be especially challenging for learning-disabled students, the school specifically imposes shifting work assignments to help them develop the coping skills they may need to later hold a job. Participants generally are placed from the nearby special-education Public School 721X, with the goal to provide enough training that they can pursue jobs at the nursing home, Jacobi Medical Center or Montefiore Medical Center, which also host students, or elsewhere.

Though work assignments

account for the bulk of the school day, students also attend class and have independent tutoring sessions. The classes largely focus on real-world skills and some of the intricacies of working in a nursing home.

One morning, the class gathers around a round table in the nursing home's library, talking about personal finances and the difference between budgeting for "wants" and "needs." Off to one side, the home's bingo equipment is stowed; next door, a chair yoga class is under way; and through one door, a resident with a walker drifts in to peruse the nonfiction racks and spreads of newspapers and magazines. Another day, the students discuss the importance of proper body language and tone of voice, the cognitive declines some of their elders might be experiencing and dots on resident ID badges that indicate a swallowing problem.

"What does DNR mean?" Kinas asks. "Does it mean do not run? No, it means do not

resuscitate."

A decade ago, Kinas was clocking 16-hour days on Wall Street as a portfolio manager and trader when he sought more meaning in his work. He went back to school for a master's in special education, teaching high school math and science for six years before arriving at the Hebrew Home two years ago. The career change has amounted to a "rebirth" for him, the 58-year-old says, emphatic about how rewarding it feels to help prepare these young people for the world.

"These kids saved me in a lot of ways," he says. "They've taught me as much as I've taught them."

The school aims for a similar interchange between the students and residents. The high schoolers share favorite rock and hip-hop songs, and the elders offer hits from the 1940s and 1950s. Students show residents their smartphones and play music videos and anime on YouTube, the residents in turn share stories from their long lives, in-

cluding one centenarian who shared childhood memories of horse-drawn buggies with his young audience.

"It's a history lesson," Kinas says, "but it's a history lesson from someone who's living and breathing."

There are life lessons, too. Death is a nursing home mainstay and when the students notice a resident is gone, it forces them to talk about it and process the loss. Channel Reid, who graduated from the HOPE program 12 years ago and now works in the cafeteria, still remembers the first time a favorite resident died.

"They believe in you, they give you this love," she said. "Some of them are just so sweet it's hard to not be attached to them."

That tenderness is on display as 90-year-old Selma Bachner sits in a window-lined corner, with a view of birds hopping tree branches and a haze of fog along the Hudson shoreline, with the George Washington Bridge poking out in the distance. She is awaiting her student, 19-year-old Louie Garcia, whom she works with on reading, helping when he stumbles on a word and cajoling him as he answers a workbook's comprehension questions.

"It makes me feel darn good to help a young person," Bachner says.

For all the uniqueness of the school, its students are hard-pressed to recognize its singularity, simply seeing it as their daily routine as other schools before it were. At lunch, they munch on honey barbecue chips and pop headphones in their ears or tap away on their phones, and as they await the arrival of buses to take them home at dismissal, they cluster near an exit giggling. Reminders of how different the school really is are constant, though, from a classroom discussion led by Kinas touching on the loneliness and sadness some feel as they grow old to the longer-term experience of residents' growing medical needs.

Garcia winds through the home's hallways, delivering mail to seniors one afternoon after his tutoring session, a job he's been doing for several months and which has sparked his interest in working for the Postal Service when he's done with school. He knows, looking at those he passes, that he too will grow old one day, that he may have trouble walking or breathing or all the other problems on display before him. It's just a fact of life, he says.

"If I picture it in my mind," he said of old age, "I'll be like all the other residents."

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

By **ROBERT DUFFER**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

With the 2018 LC 500, Lexus now has a thrilling sports coupe.

Yet the market is jaded. The question I heard most from people was: Who needs another \$100,000 sports coupe? Lexus does.

The RC F and GS F, from which the V-8 engine is derived, are fun, powerful cars, but they don't turn heads and make people wonder what it is and, more importantly, who makes it?

The LC 500 is visceral, by sight and sound. If Lexus wants to redefine itself as being more than a maker of well-heeled but boring sedans and crossovers, it can't rely on marketing alone. It needed a mainstream, more affordable and accessible pseudo-successor to the LFA supercar.

The LC 500 is stunning. It's low and long with short overhangs, and in glinting Infrared paint it looks dangerous and gorgeous all at once. Bunched under the buff wheel arches are 21-inch forged wheels (\$2,650), and the tall and wide Lexus spindle grille does not look out of place here. It draws the eyes up over the hood, the carbon fiber roof, then down the sides to the sleek vents between the pinched doors and flexed rear wheels. The rear is really where the LC 500 sticks out. Curved and muscular, it's wider than the rest of the car, as if it spends as much time at the gym as it does on the track.

Execution of the aesthetic carries over to the inside. Soft beige headliner makes it feel as if you're ensconced in a suede slipper at a spa. The low height and center make it a squeeze getting in, even with the seat in its lowest position. We comfortably fit two adults up front and wedged two tweens in back for an extended outing, though a wide tunnel divides the 2+2 seating position.

The driver's seat is where it's at, of course. Designed to place the driver in the center of everything, the LC 500 feels right. Unfortunately, the infotainment system is still confusing. The belt buckle mouse controller is gone, finally, and the touch pad is better to use while the car is in motion. It's not as effective and easy as a controller dial. The layout of the wide screen with large

lower icons takes getting used to and overall there is too much going on. The confusion can be summarized with the four different ways to change the radio stations, including a tuner dial by the pad, the pad itself, steering wheel controls, and the vehicle info display. In trying to please everyone, Lexus might end up confusing everyone. Like the RC F, the LC 500 has a tachometer that shifts over to the right so a menu can appear on the left. It's really cool, and keeps the emphasis on driving.

Oh, yes, the driving. The 471-horsepower V-8 mated to a 10-speed transmission hits 60 mph in 4.5 seconds, according to Lexus. There are other six-figure rear-wheel drive coupes that are quicker, but few with a naturally aspirated V-8. The contained rumble of the free-breathing V-8 engine is what made me fall in love at first sound on a rainy day at the track. It sounds as good as it looks. But it has to deliver. It throws you back in your seat, simultaneously lifting up and back as 398 pound-feet of torque hits the rear wheels. In turns and under full throttle, the rear slides as loose as last call dancing at the club. Thanks in part to four-wheel steering, that temperamental looseness provides an ever-present reminder of understeer and its consequence: the spin out. It's a thrilling reminder that sport mode demands the driver to actually drive.

For RWD free-breathing purists, the Corvette does it better, and with a whole lot less weight than the 4,280-pound LC. That's as much as a midsize SUV. There are lightweight aluminum and carbon fiber elements, but the stiff chassis with active dampers and all the engineering wizardry make it a grand tourer meant for both performance and easy highway cruising.

The cruising is comfy even with the sport seats, and the 10-speed transmission as well as variable valve timing helped us to get 25.6 mpg in eco mode on one mostly highway commute; on the outbound trip in similar conditions, sport mode got us about 19 mpg.

When it comes to the rarefied space of six-figure sports coupes, first impressions make lasting impressions. The LC 500 looks different than anything else out there, and that is a good thing for Lexus.



2018 Lexus LC 500 is both beauty and beast

TNS
2018 Lexus LC 500 is a stunning sports coupe near the \$100,000 mark that is powered by a 471-horsepower 5.0-liter V-8 engine mated to a 10-speed automatic transmission. Pictured at Arlington Park race track on Tuesday, September 19, 2017.

SAFELY HOME IN GOD'S CARE

†Carmen Deleon Guerrero Borja

Lovingly Known As Carmen-Olympio/Ming

Born on April 16, 1933 was called to her eternal home and into God's loving care on October 14, 2017 at the age of 84.

In her new life, she now joins her

Husband: †Olympio Tudela Borja
Daughters: †Victoria B. Concepcion, †Angie DLG Borja
Grandson: †Shane Barrett B. Concepcion
Parents: †Francisco Muna & †Rita Arriola Deleon Guerrero
Parents-In-Law: †Vicente Diaz & †Victoria Tudela Borja

She will forever be remembered in the hearts of her:

Children: †Victoria Borja/James Concepcion: (†Shane Barrett, Brandon Noel/Jacoba C. Concepcion [Victoriana Pas, Olympio James]);
Alexander DLG/Dinah C. Borja: (Angela May/Daniel Ruiz [Jordan], Alison Louise, Alex Olympio, Alyssa/Lawrence Yi);
Frances DLG Borja;
Rita Borja/†Jesus Dela Cruz: (Jesse/Gina [Jenna], Anthony/Redie [Anthony II, Carlo, Chase, Ava], Kaye Therese/Andre Tenorio [Logan Jesus], Jessy Kaley);
Raymond DLG/Nora V. Borja: (Ryann Nicole/John Buie III [Nicole Victoria], Carmen Suzanne, Rachel Nadine);

Sisters, Brother, & In-Law:
†Merced DLG & †Ignacio C. Aldan, **Maria DLG** & †Jose C. Tomokane, **Rita DLG** & †Jesus S. Sablan, **†Francisco A. Deleon Guerrero**

Brothers, Sisters In-Law:
†Ricardo T. & †Antonia, Trinidad Camacho Borja, **†Daniel T.** & †Joaquina S. Borja, **†Victorino T.** & †Trinidad A. Borja, **†Pedro T.** & Miriam H. Borja, **†Consolacion T.** & Joel Bernado, **Ignacia F.** & Ceaser Villaluz, **Manuel F. Borja, Candilaria B.** & Dan Klein, **Joaquin F. Borja, Francisco F.** & †Margarita C. Borja, **Estefania C.** & Francisco Chong, **†Teresita C.** & †Jesus B. Dela Cruz, **Edward F.** & Doreen Camacho

She will also be missed by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren and friends.

Daily mass of intention is offered at 6:00 am at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Recitation of the holy rosary is prayed daily at 6:00 pm at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Please join us in sharing final moments with our Mom, on **Monday, October 23, 2017** from **8:00 am** at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at **10:30 am** followed by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be laid to rest.

Thank You — Si Yu' us Ma' ase

The Children

Alexander, Frances, Rita, Raymond & Family

NUTS & BOLTS

2018 Lexus LC 500 at a glance

■ Vehicle type: sports coupe
■ Base price: \$92,000
■ As tested: \$104,065 (excluding \$995 delivery)

■ Mpg: 16 city, 26 highway
■ Engine: 471-horsepower 5.0-liter V-8
■ Transmission: 10-speed automatic
■ Parting shot: A beautiful thing is never perfect.

Life & Style

'Happy Death Day' scares off 'Blade Runner' at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The box office might be struggling this year, but the horror genre is alive and well.

This weekend the “Groundhog Day”-like horror pic “Happy Death Day” scored a first-place finish, surpassing expectations and blowing the much costlier and star-driven “Blade Runner 2049” out of the water.

Studio estimates Sunday show “Happy Death Day” took in \$26.5 million from 3,149 North American theaters. With a \$5 million production price tag, “Happy Death Day” is already a hit.

With a PG-13 rating, the film scored big with younger audiences—63 percent were under 25.

It's the latest success story from Blumhouse Productions, which earlier this year released “Split” and “Get Out,” with the help of Universal Pictures, which distributed.

Jim Orr, executive vice president of domestic distribution for Universal, said “Happy Death Day” is an original film that's reimagining the genre.

“It's as much thriller as it is horror film. It's scary, it's funny, and it has an extraordinarily clever script that is very well executed,” Orr said. “Blumhouse owns this space no doubt about it, and they do this better than anybody consistently.”

The film also had the benefit of coming on the heels of the massive success of “It,” which has earned \$314.9 million domestically to date. The



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Jessica Rothe in a scene from “Happy Death Day.”

“Happy Death Day” trailer played in front of “It” at theaters, which “exponentially increased” audience awareness, said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

Horror continues to be one of the bright spots during a rollercoaster year at the box office.

“This is a horror gold rush at the theaters,” Dergarabedian said. “It's been perhaps the most consistently positive story this year.”

One film that does not look destined for a happy ending is “Blade Runner 2049,” which

fell 54 percent in its second weekend in theaters, adding \$15.1 million to bring its domestic total to \$60.6 million.

The film was a costly endeavor with a production price tag north of \$150 million and was well-reviewed by critics. But it couldn't manage to draw in significant audiences beyond the fans of the 1982 original, which was also a flop upon release.

Jackie Chan's “The Foreigner” debuted in third place with \$12.8 million from 2,515 screens, while “It” landed in

fourth place in its sixth weekend in theaters.

The Kate Winslet and Idris Elba disaster pic “The Mountain Between Us” rounded out the top five with \$5.7 million.

Other new releases landed outside the top 10. The Thursday Marshall biopic “Marshall” took in a promising \$3 million from 821 theaters.

“Marshall is off to a solid start,” said Open Road Films CEO Tom Ortenberg in a statement. “We expect Marshall to hold very well and run well into the fall.”

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. “Happy Death Day,” \$26.5 million (\$5 million international).
2. “Blade Runner 2049,” \$15.1 million (\$29.3 million international).
3. “The Foreigner,” \$12.8 million (\$5.2 million international).
4. “It,” \$6.1 million (\$10.4 million international).
5. “The Mountain Between Us,” \$5.7 million (\$4.1 million international).
6. “American Made,” \$5.4 million (\$3.2 million international).
7. “Kingsman: The Golden Circle,” \$5.3 million (\$15.6 million international).
8. “The Lego Ninjago Movie,” \$4.3 million (\$9.5 million international).
9. “My Little Pony: The Movie,” \$4 million (\$4.9 million international).
10. “Victoria and Abdul,” \$3.1 million (\$1.9 million international).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. “Never Say Die,” \$30 million.
2. “Blade Runner 2049,” \$29.3 million.
3. “Bad Genius,” \$16.9 million.
4. “Kingsman: The Golden Circle,” \$15.6 million.
5. “It,” \$10.4 million.
6. “The Lego Ninjago Movie,” \$9.5 million.
7. “Geostorm,” \$9.1 million.
8. “The Snowman,” \$9 million.
9. “The Outlaws,” \$8.3 million.
10. “Chasing the Dragon,” \$7.7 million.

AP

Richard Wilbur, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, dies at 96

By HILLEL ITALIE
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Richard Wilbur, the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and translator who intrigued and delighted generations of readers and theatergoers through his rhyming editions of Moliere and his own verse on memory, writing and nature, died. He was 96.

Wilbur died Saturday night in Belmont, Massachusetts, with his family by his side, according to friend and fellow poet, Dana Gioia.

The U.S. poet laureate in 1987-88, Wilbur was often cited as an heir to Robert Frost and other New England writers and was the rare versifier to enjoy a following beyond the poetry community. He was regarded — not always favorably — as a leading “formalist,” a master of old-fashioned



Richard Wilbur, the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, died at 96.

AP

meter and language who resisted contemporary trends. Wilbur was also known for his translations, especially of Moliere, Racine and other French playwrights. His playful, rhyming couplets of Moliere's “Tartuffe” and “The Misanthrope” were often called the definitive editions of those classic 17th-century satires.

“Moliere has had no better

American friend than the poet Richard Wilbur,” The New York Times' Frank Rich wrote in 1982. “Mr. Wilbur's lighter-than-air verse upholds the idiom and letter of Moliere, yet it also satisfies the demands of the stage.”

Wilbur's expertise in French literature eventually brought him to Broadway as a lyricist for Leonard Bern-

stein's production of Voltaire's “Candide,” which premiered in 1956. Numerous other writers, including Dorothy Parker and James Agee, had been unable to get along with the demanding team of Bernstein and Lillian Hellman.

“Lillian had heard about my translation of Moliere's ‘The Misanthrope’ and wanted to have a look at it,” Wilbur told The Associated Press in 2006. “She decided that if I could translate one witty Frenchman, I might be able to do another.”

He received numerous literary honors, including the National Book Award and two Pulitzer Prizes, for “Things of This World,” released in 1956, and for “New and Collected Poems,” which came out in 1989. Upon announcing in 1987 that Wilbur would serve as poet laureate, Librarian of

Congress Daniel J. Boorstin called him “a poet for all of us, whose elegant words brim with wit and paradox.”

Handsome and athletic into his 90s, with a warm, clear voice ideal for readings, he had an unusual quality for a major poet: happiness. His Christian faith was unbroken by the influence of campus leftists at Amherst College, his wartime service on the front lines in Europe or his acquaintance with such self-destructive peers as Sylvia Plath, whom he remembered in his poem “Cottage Street 1953” as “the pale, slumped daughter” of her “frightened” mother.

“I think many people associate happiness with shallowness,” Wilbur told the AP. “What people don't want is someone who is complacent. And I know that I am not a complacent man.”

PBS airing film on Mark Twain's trip aboard 1st cruise ship

NEW YORK (AP)—When the steamship considered the first cruise ship to originate in America left its New York City pier 150 years ago, the passenger list included a little-known California newspaperman writing under the pen name Mark Twain.

By the time the six-month overseas journey ended, the writer born in Missouri as Samuel Clemens was famous for his newspaper dispatches describing his experiences visiting Europe, North Africa and the Holy Land with American sightseers. The popular book from those dispatches—“Innocents Abroad”—allowed him to quit newspapers and start writing novels.

A new documentary on the 1867 voyage of the Quaker City, “Mark Twain's Journey to Jerusalem: Dreamland,” airs at 8 p.m. Monday on the PBS World Channel.

Historians consider the voyage to be America's first large-scale tourist excursion cruise.

French president moves to revoke Weinstein's Legion of Honor

LONDON (AP)—British police are investigating three new allegations of sexual assault against film producer Harvey Weinstein, all made by the same woman.

In another blow to the Hollywood titan after he was ejected from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, France's president said Sunday he was working to rescind Weinstein's prestigious Legion of Honor award.

In the new British allegations, London's Metropolitan Police force said Sunday that the woman reported being assaulted in London in 2010, 2011 and 2015. The force said officers from its Child Abuse and Sexual Offenses Command are investigating.

The woman's name has not been made public. The force also did not name Weinstein, in keeping with its policy of not identifying suspects who



AP
In this Feb. 22, 2015 file photo, Harvey Weinstein arrives at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Music icon's daughter opens California's Johnny Cash Trail

FOLSOM, Calif. (AP)—The California city of Folsom has completed the second section of its "Johnny Cash Trail" that pays tribute to the country music icon and his 1968 album "At Folsom Prison."

Cash's daughter Cindy Cash gave an emotional speech as she cut the ribbon at Saturday's event, which included a festival, fun runs and a community bike ride.

The first section of the 2.5-mile (4-kilometer) trail

opened three years ago. The second phase completes the biking section of the trail, which traverses prison property and links to other area trails. The Sacramento Bee (<http://bit.ly/2xGZ5OH>) reports Folsom still plans to install large pieces of art that will tell Johnny Cash's story.

Cindy Cash choked up as she spoke of her father's humble nature and how honored he would have been by the event.

Man in print: filmmaker Barry Sonnenfeld writing memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—Filmmaker and cinematographer Barry Sonnenfeld, whose credits range from "Misery" to "Men in Black," has a book deal.

Hachette Books told The Associated Press on Thursday that it has acquired "Barry Sonnenfeld, Call Your Mother!" Publication is scheduled for Spring 2019.

Sonnenfeld, 64, served as cinematographer for "Raising Arizona" and other Coen brothers films and for the Rob

Reiner movies "When Harry Met Sally ..." and "Misery." He later directed "The Addams Family," the "Men in Black" trilogy and the Netflix production "A Series of Unfortunate Events." According to Hachette, Sonnenfeld will track his rise from "smothered only child" to Hollywood player.

Sonnenfeld said in a statement he hopes the book captures his philosophy of regret, fear and dread, or, on good days, "Cling to the Wreckage."

have not been charged.

But it said the allegations involve a man against whom another accusation was made Wednesday. That alleged assault—reported to have taken place in west London during the late 1980s—also is being investigated.

British actress Lysette Anthony says she reported to police on Wednesday that Weinstein raped her in her west London home in the late 1980s.

Anthony, 54, who appears on the British soap opera "Hollyoaks," told the Sunday

Times newspaper that Weinstein raped her in the late 1980s after showing up at her London home. She said she was left feeling "disgusted and embarrassed" after the attack.

"It was pathetic, revolting," she was quoted as saying in a Thursday interview. "I remember lying in the bath later and crying."

Dozens of women have made allegations of sexual harassment and assault against the movie mogul in recent days, some dating back decades. Weinstein denies non-consensual sexual activity.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences took the almost unprecedented step Saturday of revoking Weinstein's membership.

It said it did so "to send a message that the era of willful ignorance and shameful complicity in sexually predatory behavior and workplace harassment in our industry is over." Weinstein, who backed many British movies including "Shakespeare in Love" and "The King's Speech," also has been suspended by the British film academy.

The fallout from the mul-

Hogwarts Express rescues stranded family in Scotland

LONDON (AP)—As if by magic, the Hogwarts Express has come to the rescue of a stranded family in Scotland.

The train that took Harry Potter to school was played onscreen by the Jacobite steam train, which runs on a remote and scenic route through the Scottish Highlands.

On Friday, it made an unscheduled stop to pick up a family of six that was stranded

when a storm washed away their canoe.

Jon Cluett, his wife and four children between the ages of 6 and 12 were staying in a lakeside hut on Loch Eilt when they awoke to find their canoe was gone.

Faced with walking several miles over boggy ground to get back to the family car, Cluett called police to see if any form of rescue was available.

"The policeman said, 'We've arranged for the next train passing to stop for you, and you're not going to believe this but it's the Hogwarts Express steam train. Your kids are going to love it,'" Cluett said Sunday.

Cluett said his children, all Harry Potter fans, were "really excited" by the adventure.

"They know the Harry Potter films and they know

that are filmed in the Highlands," he said. "But they hadn't put all of that together in their heads until they saw the train."

Cluett, the pastor of a church in Stirling, central Scotland, is hopeful someone will find his canoe and give the story a perfect happy ending.

"It's got to turn up at some point. The thing is 16-foot-long, red and floats," he said.

Afternoon delight ends when wife stops to take a call

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for many years, work long schedules, and actually sleep when we go to bed at night. Saturday afternoon, we had "nothin' to do," so I suggested some hanky-panky. We were just getting into it when the phone rang.

I told her to let it go to voicemail, but when our married daughter's name was caller-ID-announced, she said she had to take the call because they had been playing phone tag all day. There was no important matter, just idle chit-chat. What a mood killer!

Am I wrong to be angry that my needs were ignored so my wife could say, "Hello, how are you?" to our daughter (who calls eight times a day anyway)?

THWARTED IN MICHIGAN

DEAR THWARTED: Wrong? I don't think so. I think it's time to calmly ask your wife WHY she prioritized taking that call over the opportunity to be intimate with you.

P.S. The next time you're in "H-P" mode, put both of your phones on "do not disturb."

DEAR ABBY: I was diagnosed with lung cancer last year. After months of chemo, I had surgery and my lung was re-

moved. Fifteen months after my diagnosis, my husband is still smoking cigarettes.

I feel so hurt and alone going through this. I thought he would have stopped smoking for his own health as well as moral support to me. He says I don't have the right to change him and quitting is too hard, even though he refuses to get help to stop.

Am I being overly sensitive to think he should stop smoking? I don't think he is being fair to our children because of the potential of them having to watch another parent receive the same diagnosis.

NEEDS MORAL SUPPORT

DEAR NEEDS: You are not "overly sensitive." People have been known to get cancer from secondhand smoke. Face it, you are married to an addict. Not only is he being unfair to the children, he is being unfair to you and himself. Because he's unwilling to even try to quit, my advice is to insist that he do it outside and away from you.

DEAR ABBY: A few days ago, my daughter had a sleepover at a friend's house, and the girl's dad broke my daughter's eyeglasses by accidentally stepping on them. He said he would pay for them. In the meantime, I glued them together.

Fast forward to two days later, and our dog finished the job

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



and broke the side that was still OK. Is the dad still responsible for paying or is he not, since my dog used the glasses as his chew toy?

BLIND AS BATS IN FLORIDA

DEAR BLIND AS BATS: The man who stepped on your daughter's glasses should pay to replace them as promised, and in the future, when those glasses are not on your daughter's nose, they should be safely stored in their case and in a secure location!

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



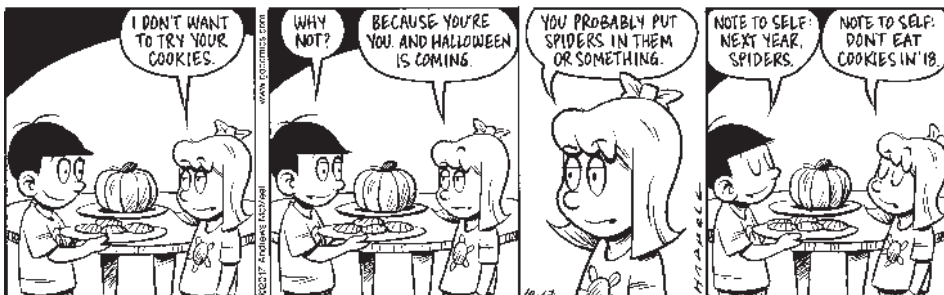
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



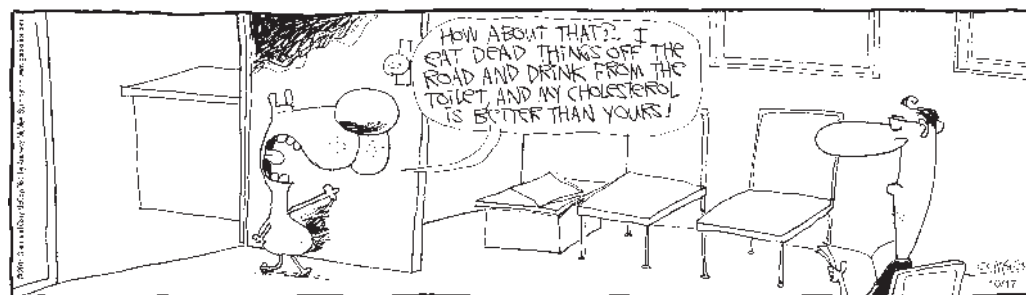
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Main-tained
5 Caboose
9 Moon-shine vessel
12 Notion
13 French
14 101 verb
15 Places that sell smoothies
17 Old Olds-mobile
18 Make well
19 "The Creation" composer
21 "Wheel of Fortune" host
24 Branch
25 Fibs
26 Gershwin's "— in Blue"
30 Canine cry
31 Subjects, usually
32 Noon, on a sundial
33 Become pals with
35 Profound

DOWN

1 G-K
2 College URL
3 Floral ring
4 Russian villas
5 Country's McEntire
6 And
7 Schedule abbr.
8 Sends a package again
9 Enclosures in court-rooms
10 Second-hand
11 Thug
16 "A mouse!"
20 Early hrs.
21 Thick chunk
22 Suffix for million
23 Amazon.com founder
24 Crow's-nest cry
26 Fish eggs
27 Attila, notably
28 Regimen
29 Shriek barks
31 "Great work!"
34 Trench
35 Re-nounce
37 Little lie
38 Potter's medium
39 Carousel, for one
40 Hostels
41 Tackles moguls
44 Ms. Thurman
45 Scot's denial
46 Genetic stuff
47 Collection

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-17

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Felicity Jones, 34; Eminem, 45; Rob Marshall, 57; Alan Jackson, 59.

Happy Birthday: Stick to the rules, cover your back and make sure your personal documents are in order. Dealing with institutions, government agencies and the legal system will leave you in a precarious position if you haven't been meticulous when it comes to personal account. Personal alterations can be made, but do so for the right reasons. Anger will solve nothing. Your numbers are 3, 12, 16, 23, 36, 39, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your emotions are running high and new beginnings will put you in a better mood. Plan something special that is relaxing or geared toward love and romance. Take care of your health and appearance. Positive changes will be apparent. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't make changes. Sit tight and focus on what you need to accomplish to maintain your position and uphold your reputation. If you waffle or show signs of inconsistency, you will lose sight of your goals. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Head to the salon and get a trim or search the Internet for the latest trends. A mini makeover will brighten your day and put you in the mood to socialize with friends or plan something special with your romantic partner. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Problems with someone you love will develop if you let your emotions get the best of you. If someone pressures you, walk away. It's

important to maintain a healthy balance in your relationships if you want to avoid discord. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Children, seniors or friends can hold you back if you don't figure out a way to incorporate them into your plans. Look for reasonable ways to bring about change that will be acceptable to everyone concerned. Moderation and simplicity will be required. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Disappointment could turn into a benefit if handled properly. Refuse to let your emotions take over or lead you into unsavory territory with a partner or domestic problem. Make a difference instead of causing a problem. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be secretive regarding your plans until you have everything in place and are ready to launch. Giving others a polished presentation will make it that much easier to gain the support and approval required to excel. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can think big, but when it comes to putting your plans into motion, practicality should overrule impulse and risk. Question everything and everyone before you get involved in something that isn't fail-proof. Your insight will ward off loss. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Limitations will set in if you haven't allowed yourself enough time to take care of your physical and emotional wellbeing. Set time aside to assess your current situation. Honesty will be crucial if you want to make positive changes. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be pro-change. Consider all the angles before you press forward. Don't let your emotions take over or lead you down the wrong path. Intelligence and practicality will help you avoid loss or failure. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Know what you want before you get into a dispute with someone. Be fair with others if you want to retrieve something you lost. Personal, physical and emotional alterations will turn out well. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An argument will limit what you can do. It's best to keep the peace and avoid battling over something you cannot change. Partnerships will suffer if you force issues that are best left alone. Focus on self-improvement. ***

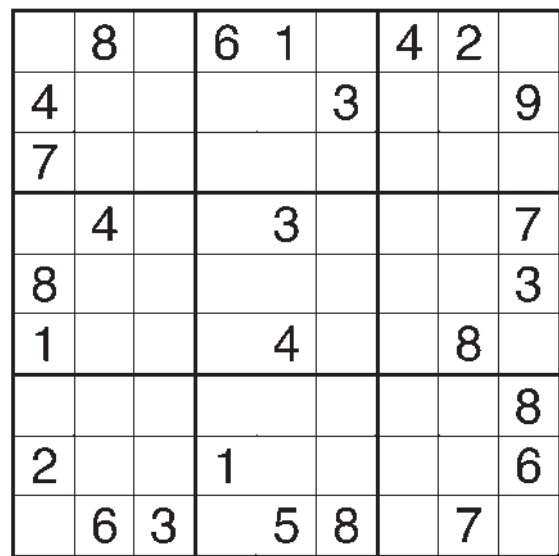
Birthday Baby: You are loyal, dedicated and insightful. You are mysterious and secretive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

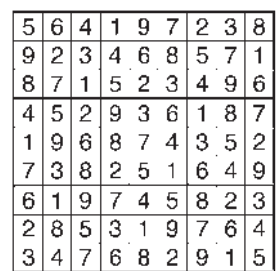


Difficulty Level ★★

10-17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

10-17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SHOPKINS INC.

Solution: 9 letters

E E B D S E L Z Z I S S D U S
E T L I O P E C A N N A P I E
Z T I L R N Y N O S A E S C I
E E N B O T A M M A E R D E P
E P E U W R H T M F B L Y C P
H O B T I O Y D I O T I E R O
C P A T S E B L A N R P L E H
H O G E E K A N L Y A P L O S
E P A R F A L E I O B Y O M A
F Y R C R C L I G A R E R E T
C T L U Y I E G T D R U T I I
L S I P S T E E Z I S A T N
U A C R T S R O S E R R I N Y
B O N N I E S A C I A E F A S
E T U C B J E S K I T C H E N

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10/17

Bag, Ballet, Bart, Beans, Beret, Betty, Birthday, Bonnie, Buttercup, Case, Cheezee, Chef, Club, Cute, Donatina, Dream, Fridge, Garlic, Ice Cream, Jessicake, Kirstea, Kitchen, Line, Lippy, Pecanna Pie, Popette, Prommy, Rainbow Brite, Rollyroll, Rose, Safe, Season, Shoppies, Size, Sizzles, Suds, Tiara, Tiny, Toasty Pop, Toy, Trolley, Wise Fry

Yesterday's Answer: Contributor

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 51, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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Boutique Supervisor (1)
High School Diploma or a GED with one (1) to two (2) years of related or applicable work and management experience in luxury retail environment. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Must be familiar with the POS System.

Sales Associate, Full-Time (5)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted not later than 5:00PM on October 24, 2017. Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug test will be required prior to employment.

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner: Natividad P. Macaranas
Aka Darlene P. Macaranas

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RICHARD IGLECIAS MACARANAS

Civil Action No. 17-0239
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO PROBATE WILL and NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent: RICHARD IGLECIAS MACARANAS
Date: November 9, 2017
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE RICHARD IGLECIAS MACARANAS OR OF HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, **Natividad P. Macaranas aka Darlene P. Macaranas** of Saipan, CNMI ("Petitioner"), has petitioned the Superior Court of **Richard Iglesias Macaranas, Decedent**. The attorney for Petitioner is **Robert T. Torres, Esq.**, whose address is **Plata Drive, Chalan Kya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**.

The hearing on the Petitioner to Probate Will by **Natividad P. Macaranas aka Darlene P. Macaranas**, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on November 9, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested person or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **ROBERT TENORIO TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated**.

Dated this 4th day of October, 2017.
/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance October 19th, 2017 at 9:30 am at the Mayor of Saipan Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Ladera Center Building, Beach Road, Saipan.

A G E N D A

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes from September 21st, 2017
II. Public Comments
III. Reports
1. Administrator
2. Chair
3. COMMITTEES
a. Committee on Awards
b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
d. Committee on Program and Development
e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
IV. Old Business
V. New Business
1. Fall 2017 Application Status
VI. Executive Session – Appeals (closed)
VII. Misc.
VIII. Next Meeting
IX. Adjournment

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

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Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • website: www.cda.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2018-CDA-01-RFP

CLOSING DATE: Monday, October 30, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“Architectural/Engineering Services”

The scope of work may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, located on the 2nd floor, CDA Building., Oledi, Saipan, during regular working hours.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN Executive Director /s/HERMAN S. SABLAN Director, P&S

Century Tours, Inc. invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Sales Associate, part-time (3)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Chinese (Mandarin), and/or Korean languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

Interested applicants may send their applications to ceti_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **5:00PM on October 26, 2017**. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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Turner homers, lifts Dodgers to 2-0 lead in NLCS



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Justin Turner

hit a three-run homer with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Chicago Cubs 4-1 on Sunday to take a 2-0 lead in the NL Championship Series.

The red-bearded slugger connected on the 29th anniversary of the Dodgers' last game-ending postseason homer: Kirk Gibson's famous pinch-hit drive to beat Oakland in the 1988 World Series opener.

"One of my earliest baseball memories, I was 4 years old at my grandma's house watching that game in '88 and seeing Gibby hit that homer," a smiling Turner said. "So yeah, it feels pretty cool. I thought about doing the fist pump around the bases, but we'll wait until we get to the World Series for that, hopefully."

Turner drove in every run for Los Angeles, going the other way for a tying single in the fifth before sending a long shot to center field off John Lackey in the ninth. A fan wearing a blue Dodgers jersey reached over a railing to catch the ball on the fly.

Turner's second homer of the postseason ended another dramatic night for the Dodgers, who remained unbeaten in these playoffs and moved within two wins of their first World Series appearance since 1988.

"It's very cool, and J.T., we were talking about it in there after the game," manager Dave Roberts said. "Twenty-nine years to the day. It was special. Our guys feel it."

Game 3 in the best-of-seven series is Tuesday night at Wrigley Field in Chicago. Midseason acquisition Yu Darvish starts for the Dodgers against Kyle Hendricks.

Yasiel Puig drew his third walk of the game leading off the ninth, and Charlie Culberson bunted him to second. After losing pitcher Brian Duensing struck out pinch-hitter Kyle Farmer, Chicago manager Joe Maddon went to the bullpen for the 38-year-old Lackey, who pitched on consecutive days for the first time in his 15-year career.

Lackey got the call over All-Star closer Wade Davis, and the veteran starter walked Chris Taylor on six tense pitches.

Turner stepped up and ended it with his fourth career playoff homer. He's been at his best in October, batting .377 with 22 RBI in the postseason.

"We've been doing it all year long," Turner said. "We're never out of a game. As long as we have outs left,



we're going to keep fighting."

Completing the poetry of the moment, a fan in a Chase

Utey jersey in the center-field bleachers caught the ball in his glove.

Addison Russell homered in the fifth for the Cubs, who are down early in this rematch of

Los Angeles Dodgers' Justin Turner hits a three-run walk off home run against the Chicago Cubs during the ninth inning of Game 2 of baseball's National League Championship Series in Los Angeles, Sunday, Oct. 15, 2017.

the 2016 NLCS. Chicago won that series in six games and went on to its first World Series championship since 1908, while the Dodgers have been absent from the Fall Classic since 1988.

Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen got the victory with a hitless ninth despite hitting Anthony Rizzo on the hand with a one-out pitch. That ended the Los Angeles bullpen's impressive streak of 22 straight Cubs retired to begin the NLCS, but the Dodgers have thrown eight hitless and scoreless innings of relief in the NLCS.

After a collective offensive effort drove the Dodgers to a 5-2 win in Game 1, Turner did it all in Game 2. He has 10 RBI in the Dodgers' five postseason games, getting five in the playoff opener against Arizona.

Jon Lester yielded three hits and five walks while failing to get out of the fifth inning in the shortest start of his long postseason career, but the Dodgers couldn't take advantage of a rare shaky night by the Cubs' star left-hander.

Rich Hill struck out eight in five more impressive innings

for the Dodgers, but he was pulled for pinch-hitter Curtis Granderson in the fifth in a debatable decision by Roberts.

Russell was off to a 4-for-22 start in the postseason with nine strikeouts before the slugging shortstop put a leadoff homer into the short porch in left field.

Turner evened it moments later by poking a single to right after a leadoff double by Culberson, the Dodgers' improbably successful replacement for injured All-Star shortstop Corey Seager.

The Dodgers chased Lester with two outs in the fifth, but reliever Carl Edwards Jr. came through after several recent postseason struggles, striking out pinch-hitter Chase Utley and then pitching a strong sixth.

Lester was the co-MVP of last season's NLCS, winning Game 5 at Dodger Stadium and yielding two runs over 13 innings in the series. He had nothing near the same success against the Dodgers' revamped lineup in this one, issuing four walks in the first four innings and repeatedly escaping jams.

Dodgers third base coach Chris Woodward held up Turner in the third when it appeared he could have scored from first on Cody Bellinger's double to the gap.

Javier Baez, the other co-MVP of last season's NLCS for Chicago, got to third base in the third with one out, but also was stranded.

This time vs Astros, Yanks again try to bounce back

NEW YORK (AP)—Trailing again 2-0 in the postseason, these young New York Yankees remain even keeled going into Game 3 of the AL Championship Series against the Houston Astros.

"I don't know if it's maturity or just being dumb," Yankees pitcher CC Sabathia said Sunday.

At 36 the old man of the pitching staff, Sabathia will pitch Monday surrounded by a starting lineup that includes Baby Bombers Aaron Judge (25), Gary Sanchez (24) and Greg Bird (24).

Houston, two wins from its first World Series appearance since 2005, starts 33-year-old right-hander Charlie Morton, who grew up in Connecticut rooting for the Yankees. He remembered getting Joe Girardi's autograph at spring training and his family spotting Derek Jeter at a Bahama Breeze restaurant, an especially exhilarating experience for his

sister, Jennie.

"She walked up to him and said, 'Hey, can I have a picture with you?' And he said, 'Only if you smile,'" Morton recalled.

After a pair of 2-1 games in Houston, the series shifted to the Bronx and the Astros worked out at Yankee Stadium, where New York went 51-30 during the regular season. Houston won the 2015 AL wild-card game in the Bronx by a 3-0 score.

"It will be the biggest game of my career," said Morton, who didn't get a decision against Boston in Game 4 of the Division Series.

While Judge, Sanchez and Didi Gregorius combined to go 2 for 22 in the first two games of the series, Astros stars Jose Altuve and Carlos Correa went 8 for 15. Reaching the best-of-seven LCS is new for most players on both teams, and Astros manager A.J. Hinch thinks his play-

ers are motivated by doing well for each other.

"Maybe we don't sense sort of the magnitude of these moments because this is us, who we are, how we are," he said.

New York seeks inspiration from its comeback last week from a 2-0 deficit in the best-of-five Division Series against Cleveland, which led the AL with 102 wins—one more than Houston. Girardi said New York's streaky nature during the season also bred confidence. The Yankees started 38-23, opening a four-game AL East lead, lost 19 of their next 26, then rebounded to finish 91-71 and earn the top wild card.

"Guys started to understand that you have to be resilient in this game," the manager said. "You're going to have really tough losses and you have to learn to bounce back."

He also thought back to his playing days on the 1996

Yankees, outscored 16-1 by Atlanta in the opening two games of the World Series. New York swept the next four to win the first of its five titles with Jeter and reliever Marino Rivera.

"There were a lot of young players that played important roles, mostly Mariano and Derek," Girardi said. "The message then was go win one, one game, and see where we're at. And that's the same message."

Sabathia was 9-0 with a 1.71 ERA in 10 starts following Yankees' losses during the regular season and didn't get decisions against the Indians in New York's Game 2 loss or Game 5 win. Given a relief corps that includes Aroldis Chapman, Dellin Betances, David Robertson, Chad Green and Tommy Kahnle, Sabathia doesn't worry about pitching deep.

"I'll go out and do my thing and let the bullpen clean up my mess," Sa-

bathia said.

Morton follows Dallas Keuchel and Justin Verlander, whose stellar starts were the primary factor in the Yankees' 27 strikeouts over the two games. Morton recalled going to the old Stadium across 161st Street and also looking on at a Roger Clemens bullpen session during spring training.

"When I was little, I remember really wanting a Don Mattingly rookie card, and I never got it," he said.

Morton missed most of 2016 with a hamstring injury, left Philadelphia last offseason to sign with Houston as a free agent and went 14-7. He limited left-handed batters to a .172 average, down from .258 in 2016, and attributed his improvement to a talk in a Citi Field video room last year with Phillies pitching coaches Bob McClure and Rick Kranitz, who advised he throw more curveballs to lefties and fewer sinkers.

Manning helps depleted Giants stun Broncos, 23-10



D E N V E R (AP)—Eli Manning ignored the loss of four wide receivers, and the reeling New York Giants capped a stormy week of injuries and infighting by stunning the Denver Broncos 23-10 on Sunday night.

The Giants (1-5) pulled off one of the season's biggest upsets by dominating Denver in every phase from start to finish. The Broncos (3-2) blew a golden opportunity to close in on Kansas City in the AFC West after the Steelers knocked off the last unbeaten team in the league earlier Sunday.

"It's the National Football League," Von Miller said. "It's not about who you've got playing for you or what stars are in the game or what the team looks like. It's any given Sunday. On any given Sunday you've got to be on and on any given Sunday you can lose. And tonight just wasn't our night. We lost."

Visiting teams went 8-5 in Week 6 and are 46-44 overall this upside-down NFL season.

Jason Pierre-Paul had a trio of sacks for the Giants, who came into Denver tottering from a tumultuous week in which three wide receivers landed on injured reserve, five other starters were sidelined with injuries and cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie was suspended for insubordination.

It was a wipe-out, all right,

just not the one everyone was expecting.

Vikings 23, Packers 10

In Minneapolis, Harrison Smith led Minnesota's defense in a thorough dismantling of Green Bay, as the Vikings knocked Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers out of the game on Sunday with a broken collarbone during a victory that drastically altered the course of the NFC North.

Smith had 1+ sacks on safety blitzes, a diving interception and two pass breakups, helping the Vikings (4-2) limit the injury-depleted Packers to a season-low 227 yards.

Patriots 24, Jets 17

In East Rutherford, Tom Brady set the NFL record for regular-season victories by a quarterback, getting his 187th.

The Patriots (4-2) were playing their first game in 10 days after beating Tampa Bay 19-14 on Oct. 5, and appeared a bit rusty early as they fell behind 14-0 in the second quarter against the surprising Jets (3-3).

Steelers 19, Chiefs 13

In Kansas City, Le'Veon Bell ran for 179 yards and a touchdown, Antonio Brown made an acrobatic touchdown catch in the fourth quarter and the Steelers handed the NFL's only unbeaten team its first loss.

The Chiefs (5-1) still had a chance after Brown's 51-yard



reception made it 19-10, moving quickly downfield and getting a 33-yard field goal from Harrison Butker.

Chargers 17, Raiders 16

In Oakland, Nick Novak kicked a 32-yard field goal on the final play and the Chargers took advantage of a key missed extra point by Giorgio Tavecchio.

The Chargers (2-4) had been done in by poor kicks this season, losing twice on misses by former kicker Younghoe Koo. Novak missed a 48-yard field goal in the first quarter, but it was a missed extra point by Tavecchio—after a high snap by Jon Condo early in the fourth quarter—that was the difference in a fourth straight loss by the Raiders (2-4).

Cardinals 38, Buccaneers 33

In Glendale, Adrian Peterson rushed for two touchdowns and 134 yards in an impres-

sive Arizona debut and the Cardinals held off a furious second-half Tampa Bay rally.

The Buccaneers (2-3) lost quarterback Jameis Winston to a right shoulder injury in the second quarter, with the Cardinals (3-3) leading 21-0. But backup Ryan Fitzpatrick threw for 290 yards and three touchdowns to bring Tampa Bay back from a 31-0, early third-quarter deficit.

Bears 27, Ravens 24, OT

In Baltimore, Connor Barth kicked a 40-yard field goal with 2:08 left in overtime, and the Bears used a 167-yard rushing effort by Jordan Howard to beat the Ravens.

The Bears (2-4) blew a 14-point lead in the second half before coming through in overtime behind Howard, whose 53-yard run put Chicago at the Baltimore 40. After rookie Mitchell Trubisky completed an 18-yard pass to Kendall Wright, Barth deliv-

ered the winner.

Dolphins 20, Falcons 17

In Atlanta, Jay Cutler threw a pair of touchdown passes, Cody Parkey kicked a pair of field goals and the Dolphins rallied from a 17-0 halftime deficit.

Matt Ryan had another crucial interception with the Falcons in position to at least attempt a tying field goal. Cordrea Tankersley got a hand on a pass intended for Austin Hooper and Reshad Jones swooped in to make the clinching interception with 39 seconds remaining.

Rams 27, Jaguars 17

In Jacksonville, Pharoh Cooper returned the opening kickoff 103 yards, one of two special teams touchdowns that helped the Rams.

The Rams (4-2) also blocked a punt for a score and a 10-point lead in the first half. Malcolm Brown returned the loose ball 8 yards for the fran-

chise's first such touchdown since 2005.

Saints 52, Lions 38

In New Orleans, running backs Mark Ingram and Alvin Kamara combined for 237 yards from scrimmage, the Saints' resurgent defense forced five turnovers and scored a franchise-record three times.

New Orleans (3-2), which has a winning record for the first time since its last playoff season in 2013, built a five-touchdown lead, only to gut out a remarkable bid by Detroit to pull off the greatest comeback in NFL history.

Redskins 26, 49ers 24

In Landover, Washington's Kirk Cousins threw for two touchdowns, ran for a score, and also had an interception as part of an inconsistent performance against his past -- and possibly -- future mentor Kyle Shanahan's winless 49ers.

The Redskins blew a 17-point lead before barely holding on.

Cousins was hardly at his most accurate in completing 25 of 37 passes for 330 yards against the team he has been linked to for next season because of his connection with Shanahan.

Texans 33, Browns 17

In Houston, Deshaun Watson threw for 225 yards and three touchdowns, becoming the first rookie in NFL history with at least three TD passes in three straight games. Watson has thrown 15 touchdown passes this season, the most in NFL history by a rookie in a team's first six games. It equals the number of TD throws Brock Osweiler had in 15 games last season.

The Browns lost their 16th in a row on the road.

Rodgers breaks collarbone, may be out of entire season

Aaron Rodgers' season may have ended after an injury, just a week after the same thing happened to J.J. Watt and Odell Beckham Jr.

It's been a painful stretch for some of the NFL's biggest stars.

Rodgers broke his collarbone Sunday in Green Bay's 23-10 loss to Minnesota, and the Packers' Super Bowl hopes could be lost right along with him.

Watt wrote on Twitter that he was "gutted" for Rodgers, who led the Packers to the NFC championship game last season and had them off to a 4-1 start this year.

"Losing Aaron Rodgers speaks for itself," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "In my opinion, he's the best player in football. This is the ultimate team game. We need to be better with the 11 people on the field that we have, regardless of the phase that we're in. Ultimately

that's my responsibility."

Jameis Winston also was lost early in Tampa Bay's game at Arizona, though the Buccaneers made a spirited surge after he left before falling 38-33.

The Packers couldn't do anything behind Rodgers' replacement, Brett Hundley, who finished 18 of 33 for 157 yards with one touchdown and three interceptions. Practice squad player Joe Callahan is the only other quarterback on the roster, but McCarthy indicated the Packers won't be out looking for a big-name veteran such as Colin Kaepernick.

"Brett Hundley and Joe Callahan, that's what we're going with," he said.

Rodgers was hurt when linebacker Anthony Barr drove him into the turf after he got rid of a roll-out pass. Rodgers writhed on the turf as McCarthy argued for a roughing-the-passer penalty.

Federer beats Nadal in Shanghai Masters finals

SHANGHAI (AP)—Roger Federer extended his winning streak over Rafael Nadal this year to four matches after beating the top-ranked Spaniard 6-4, 6-3 to win the Shanghai Masters on Sunday.

The Swiss 19-time grand slam winner, who still trails Nadal 23-15 in their overall head-to-head record, didn't face a break point and started and ended the match with service breaks.

"I don't know what my expectations were going in," Federer said. "I thought I might

struggle early on because it was a late finish last night.

"I had no nerves before the match, surprisingly. I think I was pretty clear about how I wanted to play the match. I started off very well and relaxed from then on."

Federer took advantage of three of seven break point opportunities in the match to snap Nadal's 16-game winning streak, which included his China Open victory last week.

Federer, who has won the

last five encounters between the pair dating back to the

2015 Basel final, also beat Nadal in the Australian Open final, a round of 16 match at Indian Wells and the Miami final this year.

"Have been a very difficult match for me," Nadal said. "He played very fast and he played well."

"Of course was not the best match for me of the week. When somebody plays better than you, sport is not very difficult. That's the real thing,

no? When you play against somebody that is better than you in most of the things that really matters in this sport, in this kind of surface, then it's tougher."

The Shanghai Masters is Federer's 94th career title, moving him into a tie with Ivan Lendl in second place on the Open era list.

Nadal arrived on court with a bandage under his right knee, the same leg he twice smacked with his racket after losing his serve for the first time this week in the semifinal.



Destroyers take Tuesday League's Bud Cup

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Chow Time-Blue Haus Destroyers gave sister team Assassins no room to operate in cruising to a 9-3 decision in their finals match for the Saipan Billiards Association's Tuesday League Budweiser Cup.

The quintet of Gian Flores, Jeff Garcia, Rico Montano, Roman Rodriguez, and Cesar Sangalang showed they have the better skills in the matchup between the teams that failed to make it to the Top 3 in the regular season.

The Destroyers finished fourth and edged the 9 Eleven Docomo Hustlers, 9-8, in the semifinals. The Destroyers dispatched the 9 Eleven Titans in their first game, 9-5. The Assassins, on the other hand, ended up at the cellar, but escaped with a 9-8 triumph over Tasha's Crazy 8 in their own semis showdown.

Randy Sablan and John Reyes scored the wins for the Assassins. Sablan defeated Rico Montano and Cesar Sangalang in separate Singles 8-Ball matches then teamed up with John Reyes in dispatching the duo of Roman Rodri-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Chow Time-Blue Haus Destroyers are this season's champions in the Saipan Billiards Association Tuesday League Budweiser Cup after beating sister team Assassins in the one-game finals last week.

guez and Sangalang in one of the three Partner's 8-Ball games played last week.

In the Thursday League, the 9 Eleven Titans II and Chow Time-Blue Haus Homeboyz dispatched their respective opponents to arrange a finals showdown for the Budweiser Cup. The finals will be played this Thursday.

The Titans II, who completed a 9-7 win to eliminate

regular season topnotcher 9 Eleven MJD Warriors in the first round, squeezed out a 9-8 decision over the Chow Time 8 Black Ball.

The Titans and the Black Ball battled to an 8-8 scores with the Partner's 8-Ball left to decide which team will be advancing to the finals. Ray Matsunaga and Shane Quitugua proved they have the nerves down the

stretch against the Black Ball's pair of Rey Hermogenes and Mervin Sahagun to propel the Titans to the title match.

The Homeboyz had an easier route to the finals as it dismantled the 9 Eleven Jam Shooters, 9-2.

Nolan Cultura, Gian Flores, Jeff Garcia, Cesar Sangalang moved the Homeboyz three matches away from clinching the finals berth after beating their respective opponents

in the Partner's and Singles 8-Ball events.

Marlon Contreras, Rommel Crisostomo, Roderick Cunanan, Aljay Malang, Lito Pangilinan, and Nino Zapanta could not find the right combination to stop the Homeboyz's onslaught. The pairs of

Pangilinan and Contreras and Zapanta and Malang bounced back in the next Partner's 8-Ball events to avoid a shutout loss for the Jam Shooters. Pangilinan and Contreras bested Lizardo ang Guiab, while Zapanta and Malang defeated Cultura and Garcia in other results.

JEONG

From Page 28

they posted similar two-round scores of 154 and were behind the 153 made by qualifiers Yong Woo Lee (77 and 76) and Gi Yeong Kim (76 and 77).

Other qualifiers were Feng Chun Jin, who came in at second with rounds of 72 and 67 for a gross score of 139 and 141.4 net and J.J. Atalig, who placed third (71 and 70) with a 141 gross and 142.20 for the final double Peoria tally.

Fourth finisher Ryan Park Kim, the Championship Flight winner in this year's Tournament of Champions, tamed the west and east courses with a 65

and 68 for the best score of 133 and net 142.6. Jong Hoon Park was fifth with rounds of 74 and 76 (150) and double Peoria scores of 72.8 and 70 (142.8).

Park leads the Top 8 men's qualifiers in both the match play format and the Marianas International Cup set on Oct. 28 at the Kingfisher Golf Links and Oct. 29 at Laolao Bay. Young Woo Lee, Gi Yeong Kim, Dong Young Lee, and Seung Woo Kang were the other men's players that made the cut for both tournaments.

Hyew Duck Jang leads the Seniors gross qualifiers after rounds of 76 and 74 for 155 for a six-stroke win over Dennis Williams (161). Tars

Olopai and Joe Tenorio tallied 165 each for third and fourth places, while Alex Tudela came in at fifth with a 167. Eli Buenaventura (168), Manny Mangarero (169), and John B. Cepeda (171) were the other qualifiers in the division.

Perennial women's Top 3 finisher Yuko Togawa is the top qualifier in the Ladies division both in the match play and Marianas International Cup after having rounds of 79 and 77 for a 156. Me Ae Jeon (161), Chang Hee Yoo (166), Noriko Togawa (167), Mayao Miyamoto (167), Young Sook Kwon (167), Yu Ri Kim (168), and Shiori Onoue (169) also gained slots in the match play.

For the Marianas International Cup, Yuko and Noriko Togawa, Jeon, and Yoo earned spots and will go up against the best female players from China, Japan, and South Korea.

Meanwhile, Atalig had the longest drive on the first day at 270 yards at No. 6, while Jin and Sherlyn Jones got closest to the pins honors at Nos. 3 and 17. Jin was closest at eight feet and seven inches, while Jones was at one foot and five inches.

Hans Mickelson, on the second day, had the accurate drive at two feet and 1.5 inches, while Marco Peter was the closest at No. 4 (four feet and 10 inches), and Sung Man Cho at No. 15 (10 inches).

KANOA-1

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Holdings, 9-5, to remain in the race for the division title. MP United is just a win behind Kanoa-1. Each squad has four games left in the double-round robin tournament, which will be decided by the top finisher in the team standings.

Richard Castro powered MP United past TanHoldings after firing four goals. Evan Mendiola and Andrew Chung added two goals each to back up Castro, while Jereme Quimzon tallied one.

Dylan Mister duplicated Mendiola and Chung's brace to lead Paire to a 4-3 triumph over Kanoa-2. Mister scored in the 20th and 37th minute with his last goal providing

insurance to Paire as the team built a 4-2 lead.

Ethan Taisacan and Miles Timmons scored the two other goals for Paire, while Lowell Lumauag nailed a pair for Kanoa-2, which got its other goal from Minsoo Kwon.

BOYS U14 Matansa 7, Paire 3

Age group leader Matansa kept its distance against MP United after beating Paire in the final game last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Matansa now has a 4-1-0 card, a victory ahead of MP United (3-2-0). Shirley's (3-1-1), TanHoldings (1-2-2), Kanoa (1-0-4), and Paire (0-5-7) complete the rankings.

Lolobeyong Benito stood

out in Matansa's easy win over Paire after scoring five goals. He had a hat trick right at the end of the first half, which wrapped up with Matansa on top, 4-1. Alex Christian Achas registered the first goal for Matansa in the first frame, while Jon Villagomez was the lone Paire player to hit the board in the opening half.

MP United 3, TanHoldings 3

MP United missed joining Matansa at the No. 1 spot in the team standings after settling for a draw against TanHoldings.

Taka Borja drilled the equalizer for TanHoldings in the second half, while Reginald Pascual and Oliver Fajardo logged the two other goals for the

squad. Richard Steele, Rohan Basnet, and Dylan Kim were the scorers for MP United.

Shirley's 6, Kanoa 2

Shirley's kept MP United and Matansa within striking distance after downing Kanoa.

After a deadlock at the break, 2-2, Shirley's went all out in the second half to match MP United's third win and move one victory away from tying Matansa. Rakib Hassan, Rommel Mendoza, Daniel DUenas, and Nicolasi Hernandez scored for Shirley's in the second half. Duenas and Mendoza also hit the board in the first half, allowing Shirley's to match Kanoa's output. Kanoa got an own goal in the opening half, while its second goal came from Merrick Toves.

GREEN

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match, 84-all, and the latter had a chance to grab the lead with Sean Rabasto on the line for the bonus charity. Rabasto drove strong to the basket, made the shot, and drew a foul on Edward Armia, 26.6 seconds left in regulation.

The Empe Light shooting guard then muffed his charity, while Green Minded's Ivan Devero got the rebound and pushed the ball to their frontcourt, hoping to reclaim the lead and get the win. However, Devero was a marked man in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter, while his other teammates were gun shy. Armia was the last Green Minded player to have the possession and was open for a long jumper, but opted not to make an attempt and instead went for an entry pass that did not go into one of his teammates with the ball going out to the baseline.

Empe Light was awarded the final possession with 2.9 seconds remaining in regulation. Empe Light then sued for time and when the game resumed, it could not also pull up for the basket at the buzzer, as the team made the inbound from the backcourt. Terrence Leung got the inbound pass and with him at the backcourt, he threw the ball to Haejun Park, who still had the leather on his hands when time expired, sending the match in overtime.

In the extension, Devero knocked in the first basket and he went on to earn 3 more points, while Armia and J.R.

Barrios chipped in 4 apiece to save Green Minded.

Meanwhile, in last Saturday's game, Batang Bear Brand's offensive firepower proved to be too much for Green Minded.

Batang Bear Brand had six of its seven scorers breaking into double figures to rout Green Minded, which fell behind early as Devero only played in the fourth quarter. Hal Spott had 26 points for BBB, while Ron Gamboa chipped in 23, and Erlan Lansang tallied 14. Peter Ariar contributed 12, while Jeff Che and Joseph Achas had 11 apiece for BBB.

Devero, despite missing the first three periods, still top-scored for Green Minded with his 19 fourth-quarter points, which had no bearing in the one-sided match as BBB started the final canto way ahead, 83-43.

Sunday Game

Green Minded 97— Devero 42, Armia 20, Barrios 12, Dela Cruz 11, Tibayan 7, Omampo 5.

Empe Light 88— Rabastos 24, Gunnacao 14, Reyes 13, Park 11, Lerio 8, Gallardo 8, Leung 6, Espinosa 2, Peredo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 35-18, 49-38, 71-56, 84-84, 97-88.

Saturday

Batang Bear Brand 112— Spott 26, Gamboa 23, Lansang 14, Ariar 12, Che 11, Achas 11, Esdrelon 8.

Green Minded 73— Devero 19, Barrios 16, Itaas 14, Santos 10, Dela Cruz 6, Vergara 3.

Scoring by quarters: 19-9, 45-24, 83-43, 112-72.

2017 All Schools Cross Country Series 2

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Mt. Carmel School's Kern Han Cao slows down as he nears the finish line of the second leg of the Northern Marianas Athletics' 2017 Cross Country Series 2 held last Oct. 7 at the Airport Field. He was the first finisher in the boys U11 division.



Max Church is among the more than 10 Saipan International School students that joined the race.



Ella Zhang of Agape Christian School takes the final lap of the girls U18 course.



Kaden Church is on his way to a first place finish in the U13 age group.



Rintaro Miyawaki reacts as he makes his way to the finish line.



Dylan Mister picks up his pace in the final lap of the boys U13 race.



SIS teacher Kathy Ruszala, standing second left, and their students pose for a photo before the race.



Agape Christian School runners warm up before the race.



Turner homers,
lifts Dodgers
to 2-0 lead in
NLCS

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Manning
helps depleted
Giants stun
Broncos, 23-10

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28 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club-1 and Matansa are still at the forefront of their respective divisions in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League after downing separate opponents last Saturday.

In the co-ed U12 age group, Kanoa-1 topped Matansa FC at the Hopwood Middle School Field, 5-3, to earn a 5-0-1 win-draw-loss record. Kanoa-1 leads MP United FC (4-1-1), TanHoldings FC (3-0-2), Matansa (2-0-4), Paire FC (2-0-4), and



Kanoa-2 (1-0-5).

After facing a 1-2 deficit at halftime, Kanoa-1 turned the tables on Matansa in the second half to foil the latter's bid for an upset. Andrew Sablan knocked in two of Kanoa-1's four goals in the final 30 minutes of the

Kanoa-1, Matansa remain on top



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Kanoa Football Club-1 player breaks free from his defender during the first half of their game against Matansa in the co-ed U12 division of the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

match, scoring his first in the 33rd minute and the second in the 55th. Sean Gil and Markus Toves drilled the two other goals for Kanoa-1 with the former finding the back of the net in the 48th minute and latter doing the same five minutes later.

Jim Kurt Maniago posted Kanoa-1's lone goal in the first half, making the equalizer in the 28th minute. Six minutes earlier, Jin Xin Wen handed Matansa its first goal, while Chanyang Woo scored the second in the 24th minute to give their team the 2-1 advantage at the break.

Three minutes into the resumption of the match, Sablan's first goal knotted the count before Matansa reclaimed the lead, 3-2, off Nazzir Altamirano's goal in the 45th minute. That was the last time Matansa was on top, as

Kanoa-1 countered with three goals in the ensuing plays.

In other results in the division, MP United and Paire prevailed in their respective matches.

MP United defeated Tan-

See KANO-1 on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Green Minded's Ivan Devero, center, pulls up for a jumper against Empe Light Blue's Sean Rabasto, left, and Naks Gunnacao during the fourth quarter of their game in the IT&E-sponsored Ali'i Blue Haus caging last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Green Minded splits games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Green Minded needed five extra minutes to fend off Empe Light Blue, 97-88, during the curtain-raiser in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Green Minded outgunned Empe Light in overtime, 13-4, to take the victory and

bounce back from a 72-112 loss to Batang Bear Brand last Saturday. Green Minded

now has a 3-3 mark, while Empe Light fell to a 2-4 slate, and Batang Bear Brand improved to a 3-2 card.

After leading by as much as 17 points in the first quarter, 35-18, Green Minded nearly absorbed a sorry loss as Empe Light tied the

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Jae Yeol Jeong bested a strong field of local and visiting golfers to

rule the 2017 Annual Club Lao Charity Golf Tournament held over the weekend at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort in Kagman.

Jeong finished with a net score of 140.8 and a gross of 154 in the tournament that

had a double Peoria format. He shot a gross score of 78 and net 68.4 in the first round played last Saturday on the west course and gross 76 and net 72.4 on the east course for the final round last Sunday.

The Korean was one shot short (gross) from earning a qualifying spot for the Club Lao match play set on Nov. 11 and 12, and the inaugural Marianas International Cup 2017 later this month. Only the Top 8 in each of the men's, women's, and seniors divisions qualified for the match play, while the best eight male golfers and the finest four ladies earned spots in the Marianas International Cup.

Jeong finished ninth, tying Seung San Choi (77 and 77) as

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JON PEREZ

Jae Yeol Jeong, right, is all smiles after winning the 2017 Annual Club Lao Charity Golf Tournament held over the weekend at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort in Kagman. Joining Jeong in the photo are, from left, J.J. Atalig, Feng Chun Jin, Ryan Park Kim, and Laolao Bay president Chang Ho Kim.

